

# The Good Word



The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

December 2015 Issue ~ Published November 25

November 29

First Sunday in Advent -

*Peace*

December 2

*Advent Worship Service*

and Free Soup Supper!

Soup at 6 in Fellowship Hall

Worship at 7:30

December 6

Second Sunday in Advent -

*Joy*

December 13

Third Sunday in Advent -

*Hope*

Brecksville Community  
Chorus Christmas Concert at  
4 pm in the Sanctuary

December 20

Fourth Sunday in Advent -

*Love*



*Family Service at 5 pm*

*Candlelight Service at  
8 pm & 10 pm*

December 27

Christmas Carol Sunday

One Worship Service at  
10:00


**PEACE**  
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?



**JOY**  
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?


**HOPE**  
DO YOU HOPE WHAT I HOPE?

**LOVE**  
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I KNOW?

**Can you feel it?**

 **Brecksville  
United Methodist Church**  
65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

  [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)





8:45 Contemporary Worship

10 Education Hour

*Classes for All Ages!*

11:15 Traditional Worship

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# Can You Feel It?

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

**"...the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."**

-Isaiah 9:7

We move on into the throat of our holiday celebrations, ready or not.

*Can you feel it?* I hope you are making plans to be with us in worship as we ask: *Do you see what I see? Do you hear what I hear? Do you hope what I hope? And, Do you know what I know?* I have a sense that I am still adjusting to the many ways that the holidays have changed for me over the years. Gone are the days of my youth, and all the ways of childhood. I can remember the feeling that the holidays were made and manufactured for us. I was consumed by what I wanted to see, by what I wanted to try and give to another, what I wanted to eat, what I wanted to hear, how I wanted to participate. There were the shopping excursions with my mother, and occasionally last minute with my father. The family gatherings with aunts and uncles and cousins and grandparents, many of whom are gone now, or live so far away and out of touch that a similar gathering seems not possible. It could never be the same, and that is alright. Things change, and often in that changing, they transform.

The adult years of my life have become a bit more centered (I hope). The holidays have gradually shifted in their emphasis of what it does for me to what I hope to be able to contribute for others. The positions have shifted, and we have now assumed the roles that our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles had assumed for us. In that way, we honor the traditions **of our families in ways we don't often stop to consider. I find it a marvelous thing, it is a part of the wonder of it all.**

At the center of this celebration is the timeless truth that through no earned right of our own, God comes to us, as one of us. In the tiny, vulnerable potential of an infant, born in troubled times to a young family, God hunkers down in people clothes. God comes to know what it means to live through the changes. To see what it is to lose some folks in the circle, and gain others along the way, to work through the changes, and to take part in the transformation.

**Wherever we may find ourselves this year on life's journey, we do stand together in a significant circle of fellowship. We are committed to life in a covenant community. We are in the midst of flux and change in our time together at Brecksville. Right in the very center of it all, we hear once again the story that remains constant regardless of our circumstance. It is a hitching post for generations that revisit it again and again because of its transformational story of love and the power of hope. Once again to Brecksville UMC and all of her families, to the world in which we live in 2015 on the verge of 2016, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given..."** For ages on, as long as story and tradition and love and hope hold sway, regardless of how our lives and the lives around us spin out, we can revisit this touchstone.

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace...



*Pastor Clark*



The Missions Committee has again had the joy of designating the Christmas offering. They have designated three organizations (one local, one national and one international) to share the offering this year.

#### The City Mission (local)

- ▶ As one of Cleveland's most recognized non-profits, The City Mission has served hundreds of thousands of men, women and children over the past 100 years. They welcome those who are struggling with homelessness, poverty, and various crises, meeting them at their point of need with practical help, loving concern and spiritual direction. Learn more: [www.thecitymission.org](http://www.thecitymission.org)

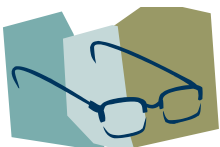
#### Midwest Mission Distribution Center (national)

- ▶ Their mission statement is "To compassionately help God's people in need locally, nationally, and around the world, and to offer a center to fulfill the call for service to our neighbors in Christ's name." Located in Springfield, Illinois, MMDC is a caring ministry related to the Illinois Great Rivers Conference and the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church. MMDC is also a cooperating depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Relief Supply Network as of January 2010. Learn more: [www.midwestmissiondc.net](http://www.midwestmissiondc.net)

#### Doctors Without Borders *Médecins sans Frontières* (international)

- ▶ Doctors Without Borders helps people worldwide where the need is greatest, delivering emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters or exclusion from health care. Learn more: [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

#### New Life for Old Glasses



Bring your old glasses to the coat room collection bin (near Fellowship Hall). Our

UMW delivers them to eye doctors who recycle them for those in need!



Our November Coffee Hour hosts will be  
*Youth Board*

Thank you, November hosts  
Evangelism!

## Advent Worship Service & Soup Supper



Join us for a special Advent Worship Service on Wednesday, December 2. This is a great opportunity to pause in your holiday preparations and enjoy the peace of the season.

A free community meal of soup and bread (lovingly prepared by church staff) will be served at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday, December 2

Soup Supper

in Fellowship Hall

at 6 pm

Worship

in the Sanctuary

at 7:30 pm

*All are welcome! Bring a friend!*







*Do you have news to share?  
Contact Melanie!  
office@brecksvilleumc.com or  
440-526-8938*

Mildred Pidwell sends her thanks to our knitters and to Pastor Barbara for the prayer shawl she received. She is so appreciative and wants everyone to know how much she is enjoying it!

On November 1, Aston Martin Wachala was baptized during the early worship service.

“Thank you for the generous contributions of winter clothing for the kids of Guidestone. I am continually amazed by the response of our congregation when a need is presented!”  
Sincerely, Sandy Crist

Happy Work Anniversary to our staff members Jeff, Scott and Melanie— all hired in November 2009!

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

Melanie Smith  
office@brecksvilleumc.com  
440-528-8938

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Allen McCrodden	1	Trinity Crouch	13
Dave Dobos	2	Kiira Olszko	13
Sue Ellenberger	2	Shirley Harper	14
Marisol Wylie	2	Sydney Hazelton	15
Ronnie Rajkovich	3	Ruth Moorhead	15
Ed Crist	4	Hannah Stein	15
Nicholas Mihalich	4	Dale Meyer	16
Diane Ellis	5	Elinor Rowan	17
Bruce McCrodden	6	Carol Wilson	18
Mike Memmer	6	Jeff Fesler	19
Katie Pasek	6	J. Donald Moorhead	19
Joyce Rossborough	6	Nathan Petznick	19
Karen Schroedel	6	John Zupanc	19
Rachel Dubin	8	Hudson Schneider	20
Steve Harper	8	Carol Dambaugh	21
Allison Loughner	8	Megan Louttit	21
Vivian Bielinski	9	Adam Derry	22
Dick Gordon	9	Anna Derry	22
Charles Helm	9	Bryan Derry	22
Joyce Johnson	9	Amanda Auble	23
Daniel Soltis	9	Pam Papp	24
Josh Kesling	10	Kayla Kosla	26
Joan Quade	10	Anastasia Brachna	28
Scott Schneider	10	David Brown	28
David Schroedel	10	Christine Drescher	29
Angela Archacki	11	Sylvia Fowler	29
Barb Berry	11	Brandon Schroedel	29
Amy Piorkowski	11	Mary Lou Bennett	30
Greg Urso	11	Darell Fisher	30
Buck Bambic	12	Sharon Hotaling	30
Mitchell Bell	12	Bob Jaite	30
Penny Burns	12	Connor Hulten	31
Steve Piorkowski	12	John Scott	31



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings this month, we lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. People like Kristen Kubeck, whose bass playing has been a wonderful addition to our praise band; Bryan Miller, whose willingness to work with our youth is a true blessing; Alan

Scheufler, who has somehow found time to write a devotion for each day of our stewardship campaign; the Evangelism Committee, who put together a wonderful recognition for our veterans; Alan and Leslie Phillips who are so quick to jump in when they see a need; and Grace Auble who sprung into action when she realized we needed an acolyte one Sunday Morning. We are so thankful for each you!



## From the Finance Committee

We hope you have felt that this year's stewardship campaign has been a special time in the life of our church family, where we strove to *Redefine, Reclaim and Rejuvenate Stewardship*. Stewardship needs to be holistic, embodied in everything we are, everything we do, and everything we will be.

How do we get there? By remembering this always,

*God Owns Everything (Psalm 24:1)*

*We are mere Managers of God's many gifts to us.*

*We are responsible to diligently grow, multiply and return those many gifts to God.*

*(Matthew 25:14-30)*

When we embrace these truths from the Bible, we are changed. Our relationship changes with God. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus Christ teaches us that if we are good stewards with the gifts already given to us, we will be entrusted with much more.

Christ teaches that our relationship with God is built on a circle of trust. God freely entrusts us with many, many gifts. We, in turn, need to celebrate those gifts, diligently grow those gifts, and freely return those gifts to God's glory. We do that, fully trusting that we will share in God's grace, love and salvation, and be entrusted with much more.

We need to constantly be prepared for when Christ returns, as if it could be any minute. We prepare by fully trusting in God, being good and faithful servants to God's word, and being faithful managers of God's many gifts. If everything we do is done in the name of Jesus Christ, giving honor and glory to God, we will be fulfilling Christ's call to us to be faithful in our Stewardship.

As a part of your personal Stewardship, if you have not already turned in your Estimate of Giving Card, please do so as soon as possible. You and your pledge are so important to the ministry and life of our church.

Peace and blessings on you for everything you do.

*-Alan Scheufler, Finance Committee Chair*

Want to read more? Go to [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)



The holidays officially begin with the annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, November 29. Come to the band stand on the square for Yuletide songs, Christmas carols, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. The parade steps off at 4 pm.

BUMC and the Evangelism Committee will host a reception following the parade in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to assist in providing this welcoming hospitality, please contact Catherine Vastartis at 440.526.9406.



# LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

Would you like to light the Advent Wreath this year? Individuals, couples, families and good friends are all welcome to participate at both the 8:45 and the 11:15 worship services. Advent begins on Sunday, November 29! To participate:

Contact Jenny Gee at

440.526.8938 x230 or

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



Brecksville Community Chorus

Joy Parker, Director of Chorus

## Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 13

4 pm in the Church Sanctuary



This annual concert is among our favorite holiday traditions, and you are invited to join us for an afternoon of wonderful music and singing. This year, the concert features two youth choruses. Cantus, our junior chorus, will share holiday favorites including *Go Tell it On the Mountain* and *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*. Choraliers, our advanced senior chorus, will sing *The Snow*, a stunning work by Edward Elgar that features two solo violins as well as works by contemporary composers Jim Papoulis and Amy Feldman Bernon.

The adult chorus is proud to present selections from *Magnificat*, one of J. S. Bach's gorgeous cantatas for Christmas. Soloists Megan Rohrer (mezzo soprano), Terry Bartlett (tenor), and Eric Coffelt (bass) will sing solo movements alongside several of the full choruses. The work is accompanied by strings and organ. In the second half of the program, the chorus has a few surprises in store, and rumor has it that a few novelties might appear. (Kazoos?!) This year, the program will also include opportunities for you to sing along.

Don't miss this fabulous and festive concert, sure to put you in the holiday spirit. We'll hold a seat open for you!



## Spread Christmas Cheer...

A meaningful tradition of Brecksville UMC is to deliver the poinsettias from our Christmas Eve worship to those who were unable to attend. This year, we are also looking for volunteers to take a poinsettias to those working on Christmas Eve (the fire department, the police station, etc.) after the 10 o'clock service. Can you help—either by delivering a plant on Christmas Eve or to someone at their home after Christmas? Contact the church office! 440-528-8938 or [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

## ...by Singing Loud for All To Hear

Here We Come A-Caroling! There are two opportunities to carol with your BUMC friends:

Tuesday, December 15 at 5 pm at The Oaks of Brecksville, a skilled nursing community. This will be a short, 30-minute program with a combination of simple choral pieces and familiar carols that we will invite the residents to sing with us. All are welcome – please let Joy know if you plan to attend!

On Tuesday, December 22 at 6 pm another group will go caroling to homes. If you would like to be part of a caroling crew, sign up on Sunday in the Parlor, or call or e-mail the office. Do you know someone who would enjoy a visit from carolers? Call or e-mail the office!



## Warm Heads, Hands and Hearts

The Hat and Mitten Tree will be set up in the Parlor again this year beginning November 22. As is our tradition, we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for those in need this winter. Can you help? There will also be a box under the tree where you can drop off toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste) and socks. Please bring these items to church anytime before December 14. Thank you for your generosity!

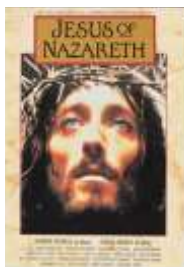




## *The 10 o'clock Education Hour —it's not just for kids!*

Attending a class on Sunday morning is an excellent way to find fellowship, receive strong, biblical teaching and journey with other believers in the life of faith. If you have never been to a class, why not give one a try? It could play an important role in your faith journey. Have questions? Want to learn more? Contact Jenny Gee, 440.526.8938 x 230 or [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

New Four Week Series Begins Nov. 29 and Ends Dec. 20



## Once Upon A Time with Pastor Clark

Please make plans to join Pastor Clark in the Chapel for a four week Advent Study. We will once again gather around the film "Jesus of Nazareth" and look specifically at the birth narrative. Please join us for a brief film clip, examination of scripture, and group discussion as we once again revisit the notion that God comes to us. Something new is afoot. *Can you feel it?*



## Book Study with Kendall Lancaster

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love, where there is injury let me sow pardon...*

Take a deeper look at the prayer of Saint Francis using the book- *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace – Living in the Prayer of Saint Francis* by Kent Nerburn. In this beautiful prayer, Saint Francis of Assisi challenges us to reach out to our neighbor with a spirit of goodwill and generosity. There is no finer prayer to encapsulate the spirit of Advent with Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Together, we will explore the prayer line using this wonderfully written book. Books are available for \$10.

Want to read more? Go to [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

## Congregational Meeting



Council on Ministries needs you! Whether you are a committee chair or not, your presence is wanted and needed at these important meetings. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 8 at 7 pm and plan to lend your voice to the ongoing conversation about how we are growing as a church family and reaching out into the community.



Want to tell a friend about your church? Pick up a copy of our Advent News, which outlines information about Christmas Eve services and happenings throughout the holiday season!

Download a copy here:

[www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)



**December 5, 2015**

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Lupus Foundation of Greater Ohio, of which Kathy Holmes is a part, invites you to their holiday fundraiser to be held here in Fellowship Hall!

Come decorate your very own gingerbread house. All of the gumdrops, candy, and frosting will be provided, along with festive refreshments. Sing along to holiday classics, take a picture in the holiday photo booth, and vote in the gingerbread gathering contest! They are your memories to make and savor.

All proceeds benefit the Lupus Foundation of America, Greater Ohio Chapter.

\*Please bring a cookie sheet to take your gingerbread house home.

For tickets, pricing, and more information, visit [lupusgreaterohio.org](http://lupusgreaterohio.org) or call 1-888-NO-LUPUS.

### THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter.  
*Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings,  
 Announcements, Upcoming Events and  
 More.* To subscribe, e-mail  
[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)



## Weekly Youth Group

- ▶ **High School** – This month, each Sunday will look a bit different for high school students. Please look below to the special events for the first two Sundays. December 20 will meet during our normal time, from 7-9 pm, in the Youth Room. There will be NO youth group meeting on December 27.
- ▶ **Middle School** – Sixth through eighth graders, come hang out in the Youth Room on Wednesday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm! We will meet the first three Wednesdays of December. We take off December 23 and 30 for Christmas break.

## Special Events

- ▶ **High School Winter Retreat** – Ninth through twelfth grade students will be traveling to Hocking Hills, Ohio, for a weekend retreat December 4-6. Please pray for safe travels, encouraging conversations, and growth in the friendships and spiritual lives of all involved!
- ▶ **Confirmation Service Saturday** – Eighth graders, our first trip to the **Twice Blessed Free Store** at the Nehemiah Mission is **December 12!** We'll meet at BUMC at 9 am, and return to the church at 2 pm. Look for more information in your inbox, coming soon.
- ▶ **Youth Dinner** – **This month, we'll meet on December 13 for our monthly all-youth dinner.** The Eberhardt family will be cooking up some delicious breakfast for dinner! Join us in Fellowship Hall from 6-7 pm, and bring your friends! Please RSVP to Courtney by Friday, December 11, by texting 440.537.5508 or emailing [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com).
- ▶ **Youth Service Project 2016** - Are you the ninth grade or higher this year? **Then you're invited to join us on our annual YSP trip! We'll be traveling to Somerville, Tennessee from June 25 - July 2, 2016.** For more information, contact Courtney at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com), or check out the camp website at [www.groupworkcamps.com](http://www.groupworkcamps.com). Commitments and first payments are due by February 15, 2016.







# Brecksville United Methodist Women

## Celebrate the Season with UMW Thursday, December 3

The annual UMW Christmas Potluck Luncheon, hosted by Asbury Bremeth, will be Thursday, December 3 at 11:30. Everyone is welcome! Bring a dish of your choice to share and a canned good donation for the Brookside Tree. Good food, fellowship and **A special program, *Back to Bethlehem*, presented by Kevin Schanner** will make a wonderful beginning for the holidays!

## You're Invited to a Christmas Tea

Greater Cleveland Church Women United is sponsoring a Christmas Tea at Church of the Savior (2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights) at 11:30 am on Friday, December 11. An inspirational program will follow the refreshments. Call Nancy Knowlton at 440.838.4341 for more information.



## Domestic Violence Donations Needed

Please join BUMW in supporting Parma-Southwest of Greater Cleveland Church Women United's Christmas drive for the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center. We're collecting much needed items this holiday season. If you can help, bring your donations to the laundry basket in the first floor coat room through December 10. Items requested include:

- Used cell and smart phones
- Gift cards
- Household cleaning supplies
- Lotions, body wash & deodorant
- Hand soap and sanitizer
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Underwear for women & children
- Large diapers - sizes 5-6

## Acme Register Tapes Wanted

Acme Fresh Market register tapes are wanted by UMW for the Acme Cash Back program. Shop at Acme now and throughout the holidays. Place your register tape in the Acme labeled box in the coat room. It's an easy way to help earn money for UMW missions and help those in need!



**Sisterhood Christmas.** The Brecksville UMW are partnering with the West Side Community House again this year to provide Christmas for young ladies in the sisterhood program. Gretchen Mates will have wish lists from each girl, which include requests for gifts for others in each girl's family. Would you like to help? See Gretchen between services.



## Asbury Bremeth Circle

Star of wonder... The December Asbury Bremeth Circle meeting on December 11 in the Parlor at 9:30 am will feature a star exchange. Bring a star (\$5 or less) wrapped in a brown paper sack, and enjoy a game of star exchanging. The continental breakfast will be a pot-luck of yummy breakfast items (bring a dozen or so items to share!) Call Nancy Knowlton for more information or with questions at 440.838.4341.



## Come Join The Circle!

On Wed. Dec 2 from 6—7:30 pm, the Evening Circle will be assembling care packages to send to our college students during finals. Stop by their table in Fellowship Hall during the Soup Supper, and sign a card to be included in the package! The Evening Circle meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Our ages range from 16 to 70-something and everywhere in between. Hope you'll plan to join us!

# December

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>29—PEACE</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 	<b>30</b> 4:15 Brecksville Youth Choruses meet, but there is no adult rehearsal tonight	<b>1</b> 10 Staff Mtg <b>5 Children's Choir</b> 7 Evangelism 7 Adult Community Chorus Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 5:30 <b>Dawnbreaker's</b> 3 MS Youth Grp 6 Soup Supper & Eve Circle 7:15 Infant Loss Support <b>7:30 Advent Worship</b>	<b>3</b> 12 UMW Christmas Potluck <b>5 Men's Small Group</b> 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir <b>8:30 Men's Ensemble</b>	<b>4</b> <i>High School Youth Depart for Hocking Hills!</i> 	<b>5</b> 1-3 Lupus Foundation Gingerbread Social in Fellowship Hall!
<b>6—JOY</b> Communion <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 	<b>7</b> 5:30 Kickboxing <i>Brecksville Community Choruses Rehearse Here on Mondays</i>	<b>8</b> 11 Staff Mtg <b>5 Children's Choir</b> 7 COM 8 COE 8 Music & Worship Board	<b>9</b> 5:30 <b>Dawnbreaker's</b> 3 MS Youth Grp	<b>10</b> 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 11 Compass Group <b>5 Men's Small Group</b> 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	<b>11</b> 7 Staff Christmas Party	<b>12</b> 6 Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Place
<b>13—HOPE</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 4 Brecksville Community Chorus Christmas Concert 6 Youth Dinner 	<b>14</b> 5:30 Kickboxing	<b>15</b> 10 Staff Mtg <b>10 Stitch'n'Time</b> Knitting 5 Caroling at the Oaks 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees	<b>16</b> 5:30 <b>Dawnbreaker's</b> 3 MS Youth Grp 7:15 Infant Loss Support Group	<b>17</b> <b>5 Men's Small Group</b> 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	<b>18</b> <i>UMW Food delivery to Brookside Food Pantry</i> Fridays @ 5 Choir 	<b>19</b> <i>Zumba meets here most Saturdays at 9:30 am</i>
<b>20— LOVE</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes <b>11:15 Worship</b> 7 HS Youth Group 	<b>21</b> 5:30 Kickboxing 7 Staff Parish Relations Committee	<b>22</b> 10 Staff Mtg 5 Christmas Eve Rehearsal 6 Caroling in Brecksville 7 Finance	<b>23</b> 5:30 <b>Dawnbreaker's</b>	<b>24</b> <b>5 Family Service</b> <b>8 &amp; 10 Candlelight Services</b> 	<b>25</b>  <i>Christmas Day</i>	<b>26</b>
<b>27- Christmas Carol Sunday</b> One Worship Service <b>10 Worship</b>	<b>28</b> 5:30 Kickboxing Church Offices Closed	<b>29</b> 10 Staff Mtg	<b>30</b> 5:30 <b>Dawnbreaker's</b>	<b>31 Offices close at 12:30</b> 		

# Christmas Poinsettias



Remembering and honoring family and friends with a church poinsettia is a long standing and beloved Christmas tradition of Brecksville UMC. But did you know that every year, even after many flowers are taken home, delivered to shut-ins, or given away, many of the plants sit in the church, slowly wilting until they are thrown away? Let's change that. This year, we can remember our loved ones, beautify the sanctuary for worship, and help the hungry! We'll use the same order form process and have our traditional list of poinsettia memorials in the bulletin on December 20 and on Christmas Eve. But instead of filling the altar area with many small flowers, we'll order larger flowers to fill the space and only enough small ones to deliver to the home bound. Most importantly, all money raised above what's needed to purchase flowers will be given to the Brookside Food Pantry to help our hungry neighbors have a happier, healthier Christmas and New Year!

***Use the order form on the below to order your flowers today!***

## Poinsettia Order Form

Order deadline is Sunday, December 6. Names will be in the bulletin on December 20 and Christmas Eve. Please include cash or check (made payable to BUMC) with your order. Return in the offering plate, deliver to the church office, or mail to the church at 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my payment for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Suggested donation of \$10 for each order.)

IN  
MEMORY

IN  
HONOR

FOR

FROM

_____	_____	_____	_____
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Want to read more? Go to [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)



When we join The United Methodist Church, we vow to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But sometimes, our good intentions get lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life. As a church, how are we doing with our promises? Can you help fill in the blanks?

# PRAYERS

Consider adding the following to your prayer list during the Advent season:

- Prayers for peace! *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*
- Prayers of joy! *Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.*
- Prayers of hope! *Where there is despair, let me sow hope.*
- Prayers of love! *Grant that I may not so much seek to console, but to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*
- *For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life. Amen* - St. Francis

Do you know that Brecksville United Methodist Church has an active e-mail Prayer Chain? To be added to the e-mail list, or to submit a prayer request, please contact [Elrowan33@aol.com](mailto:Elrowan33@aol.com).

# PRESENCE

Date	First Service	Education Hour	Second Service	Goal of 300
Oct. 18	118	108	76	-106
Oct. 25	132	111	75	-93
Nov. 1	163	105	96	-41
Nov. 8	186	-	-	-114
Nov. 15	100	99	78	-122

**We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together** for worship on Sunday mornings. Think we can hit that goal before Christmas? We can, if you are making meaningful worship a priority in your life!

# GIFTS

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the last publication of the *Good Word*.

Date	Offering
Oct. 18	\$5,949
Oct. 25	\$6,539
Nov. 1	\$18,042
Nov. 8	\$12,406
Nov. 15	\$10,959

# SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month (look for details in this issue of *The Good Word*!)

- Come to the Soup Supper on December 2 and fill out a card or two for our college kids' care packages.
- Donate your old glasses to the UMW collection. They'll be refurbished and given to someone in need!
- Volunteer at the Brecksville Christmas Parade Reception in Fellowship Hall on November 29.
- Warm heads, hands, and hearts with a donation to the hat & mitten tree.
- Save your Acme receipts and donate them to the UMW. They'll earn money for missions!

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!

*The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is our church's mission. Through the power of our connection, we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.*

# United Methodist News

## Shock, Solidarity After Paris Attacks

By Linda Bloom Nov, 16, 2015 | NEW YORK (UMNS)

United Methodists and other religious leaders are expressing shock over the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris and feelings of solidarity with the French people but cautioning against condemnations of Muslims or a dangerous escalation of military action.

And the World Council of Churches and others have pointed out that equally disturbing attacks are occurring elsewhere, including the [Nov. 12 bombings in a Beirut, Lebanon, shopping area](#) that claimed 41 lives.

Bishop Patrick Streiff, who oversees the small number of United Methodist congregations in France as the episcopal leader of central and southern Europe, pointed to his horror over “the depth of violence despising human lives” and to his conviction of the need to follow the model of Christ as peacemakers.

“We are people who believe in Christ. Our life shall witness that Christ is the Prince of Peace. He has blessed those who make peace. This shall model our answer to the terrible attacks in Paris,” he said in a statement.

“As Christians, we serve the Prince of Peace,” noted the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, United Methodist Board of Church and Society, as she [expressed deep sympathy for the French people](#). “May His message of love and hope transcend the terror our world has felt today.”

### Impact on refugees

The executive committee of the United Methodist Germany Central Conference, which was meeting when the attacks occurred, sent a letter of prayer and solidarity to the Protestant Federation and United Methodist congregations in France.

“We talked as well about the question how to respond to the changes in Europe because of the refugees that arrive here,” German Bishop Rosemarie Wenner told United Methodist News Service.

“Although we were blessed by the many positive reports of how United Methodist congregations welcome strangers, we are also worried because of an increase of hostility and Islamophobia which might even become bigger after the terrorist attacks.”

A similar discussion on walking “hand in hand with places of woundedness in the world” was taking place among members of the World Council of Churches executive committee as they began a first day of meetings on Nov. 13 in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, reported United Methodist Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, co-vice moderator for the WCC’s Central Committee.

“Little did we know that we would wake ... to discover Paris to become one of those places,” she wrote to UMNS.

The [WCC executive committee’s statement](#) also touched on its concern about the impact on Europe’s refugee crisis. “Let us not allow these events to diminish our care and hospitality to those fleeing violence and oppression,” the committee cautioned.

### Experiencing the same horror

United Methodists have come to know some of those refugees personally through their relief work, said Thomas Kemper, top executive, United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. He pointed out that the Beirut bombings invoked the same horror and anguish as Paris.

“The events of Paris may encourage border restrictions in the name of security and prohibit the entrance of Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have endured terrorism for years,” [Kemper said in a Nov. 16 statement](#). “We pray that governments and people may resist anti-refugee sentiment and continue to offer sanctuary to those in need.”

Governments also must resist implementing counterterror responses that could lead to what they are trying to avoid – weapons of mass destruction and a world at war, said the Rev. Stephen J. Sidorak Jr., ecumenical staff officer of The United Methodist Church.

“Any consideration of the evil of terrorist violence requires analysis of the possible evil implicit in the counter-terror response,” [he wrote in a statement](#).

“Each religious community must be poised to critique and rebuke its own membership,” Sidorak added. “In particular, today, Christians and Muslims alike must muster arguments against radical fundamentalists and violent extremists in their midst, morally rebuking their own religious apostates who incite to evil. We cannot allow extremist fringe elements within our traditions to define what our faiths stand for, and what they stand against.”

*Bloom is a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York. Follow her at <https://twitter.com/umcscribe>*



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