The Good Word

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WHAT'S INSIDE...



Send us your bird church photos!



Parking Lot Communion



Grads Say "Thank You"

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE BUILDING

As of July 1, I will have been at Brecksville United Methodist Church for one year. It's hard to believe it's only been one year. So much has happened and I have been welcomed so well, that this feels like Brecksville has always been home.

But this week I needed the reminder that it's only been a year, because it reminds me that even though something can seem like forever, that doesn't mean it has been.

It feels like forever since we worshipped together in the sanctuary.

It feels like forever since we listened to the (bad) dad jokes at Music with a Mission. It feels like forever since we walked up to someone and greeted them with a kind handshake or hug.

But it really hasn't been forever.

This past week I was reminded of what Ecclesiastes 3:1 has to say: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." This, too, is only a season.

A season of wearing masks not because we like them, but because we love each other.

A season of being distant as a way to care for one another.

A season of living in our discomfort zone so that we can beat this illness. And in this season we are reminded of the truth about church:

"The church is not the building, but the people" isn't just a saying, but reality.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united no matter where we are physically.

The church is not a business like a grocery store or restaurant, but a mission outpost. Our bottom-line isn't the almighty dollar, but whether we are reaching people for the Almighty God. Like Jenny said, "You can't be a grocery store at home, but you can be the church at home"... or really anywhere!

Continued on next page...



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

And <u>nothing</u> can close the church— not even a pandemic. We will still be God's people, witnessing in love wherever we are, supporting one another, and growing in our love of God.

Time is weird. But our God is big. And this holy disturbance that we are experiencing and participating in will change us for the better.

I'm so grateful that God has placed me here "for such a time as this." And I can't wait to see what the next year will bring!

Justar Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



July 12 at Brecksville United Methodist Church - 11 am & 12 pm

Have you been missing the Sacrament of Holy Communion? So have we! We think we have found a way that we can all safely share Communion together on Sunday, July 12 at 11 am or 12 pm.

Sign up to attend a brief Communion Service in the Brecksville UMC parking lot—a way we can more safely share in this Sacrament together.

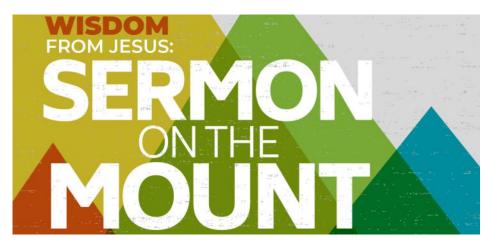
Bring your own bread and juice, or reserve individually bagged elements. Participants will be invited to park in every other spot, joining the service from your tailgate or camping chair behind your car. Don't forget to wear your masks!

No, it's not what we're used to, but God is present in every circumstance, and God will meet us as we gather around this unusual "table." Join us!

Because of limited space, registration is required. If both services fill we will add more! One car per registration. There are 30 parking spaces available per service.

Register online here: https://bit.ly/2AV1F6F

Or call 440-526-8938 or email office@brecksvilleumc.com



This summer we are taking a look at Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount." In this sermon, Jesus describes what it looks like to follow him and live in God's kingdom "here on earth as it is in heaven." He uses "but" statements to compare what "the world" says to what God calls us to do. As we are in the midst of this "holy disturbance" of COVID-19 and social unrest, use these scriptures as a prompt to think about how God is calling us to live differently in this world as we follow the Way of Jesus.

- 7/5 **The Lord's Prayer**—*Matthew: 6:5-14*
- 7/12 Serving Two Masters—Matthew 6:19-21;24
- 7/19 **Do Not Worry**—*Matthew 6:25-34*
- 7/26 Judging Others—*Matthew 7:1-5*



8:46 Prayer—The United Methodist Council of Bishops has asked every United Methodist everywhere to join in prayer at 8:46 am and pm for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the time it took for the officer to remove his knee from George Floyd's neck. "Do this for at least the next 30 days. Pray for all persons of color who suffer at the hands of injustice and oppression. Pray for our church as we take a stand against racism. Imagine the power of a concert of prayer heard around the world!"



VBS Goes Virtual this Year In these strange times of social distancing we were sad, at first, to realize that we couldn't risk holding our Vacation Bible School in its traditional manner. We usually have up to 120 children and close to 50 youth and adult volunteers helping make it all happen. All the joy and energy of the week just couldn't happen safely with masks and with safe distancing... so what is a VBS team to do? Like so much else this year... we decided to take VBS into the home!!

How could that work, you ask? Through the magic of technology and the generous spirit of our awesome volunteers we are putting together videos that walk parents and their kids through the science experiments, crafts, games and Bible story. They are even learning the hand motions to the songs and the sign language for the phrase of the day. If families registered online they will have all the materials delivered right to their doorstep by our masked gophers!

If you happen to be on a Zoom call, or pass by any one of these people (and you can recognize them under their mask) give a big VBS thank you to:

Grace Auble • Michelle, Hanna, Joe and Eliza Botzman • Leanne, Evan, Ella and Eddie Davis • George, Bridget and Erin Gee • Adrienne Leska • Becky Paroda • Jennifer, Payton and Hudson Schnieder • Melanie Smith

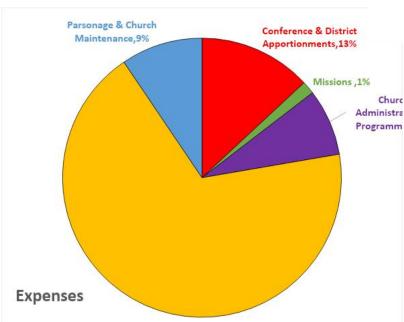
...and our super awesome gopher team!!

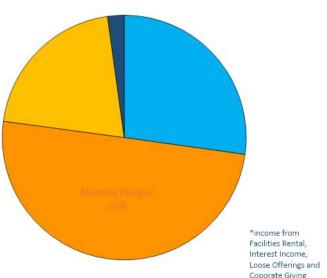
Although this is not what we imagined earlier this year, it is a super big thrill to think about bringing the fun of learning about Jesus into our families' homes. Check out next month's Good Word for pictures and reports from our first ever Virtual VBS! And if your kids would like to join the fun, email me! education@brecksvilleumc.com

AN UPDATE

From The Finance Committee

The first 5 months of the year have undoubtedly experienced a lot of ups and downs, but from a finance perspective at BUMC, we are on the right track! Our revenues are on pace with expenses as we head into the dog days of summer. Here is how we have received our revenues so far. The orange section represents monthly pledges (50% of revenue). Other income: facilities rental, interest income, loose offerings and corporate giving.





Revenue

Since the pandemic, the staff has been very aware and cautious of our spending (we are frugal Methodists, after all!). We cut back where we could, and we have spent \$5,000 less than what we budgeted for! The majority of our spending, as with any service oriented company, goes to paying our staff. Along with salaries, this also includes health insurance, pensions, taxes and worker's compensation, to name a few. The graph at left illustrates how we have spent our income.

Any questions? Ask a Finance Committee member or feel free to email Becky at <u>finance@brecksvilleumc.com</u>. As always, and especially now, we thank you for your support! You make the ministries of this church possible, and your gifts help others see and feel God's love in action.



securely online

onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/
give/now



Text"GiveBUMC" to 73256

3 WAYS TO GIVE



Mail

your gift to 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Facility Use in a time of Pandemic

The safety of all who enter Breckville United Methodist Church has always been a top priority. Coronavirus has presented many new safety challenges for everyone using the church building. To address the safety precautions that are needed at this time, the church has adopted what is called the "Building Use Addendum". This addendum provides standards for groups and individuals that will be followed as they use the church building and grounds. The addendum was written using best safety practices from Federal, State and local medical sources as well as guidelines from the United Methodist Church. The addendum is to be followed by all who use the building—both church groups and outside groups. These requirements will remain in effect until further notice for the safety of everyone using the church and will be revised as needed as new information becomes available. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us "there is a season and time for everything under heaven." Right now is our time to work together and take the necessary precautions to help ensure the safety and health of all who enter our church building. - Jeff Hastings, Facilities Manager

Here are some of the guidelines. Please see the complete addendum on our website or request a paper copy.

The Church Building will be unlocked for scheduled groups.
Groups use the room assigned and restrooms on the floor assigned.
Face masks are to be worn by all who enter the building and by all who meet on the church grounds.
Hands must be washed or sanitized before entering the building.
Social distancing of at least six feet must be maintained between people at all times.
Groups should not share coffee or other refreshments at meetings.
No child care or other rooms will be available for children.
The church will regularly sanitize high touch areas, but the church cannot guarantee a coronavirus free environment as the virus is invisible and can be brought in at any time by anyone.
If your group learns that someone in your group has tested positive for the coronavirus and that person has been in the church within the past 14 days you must notify the church immediately.
You must take attendance and provide a list of attendees to the church office by email: office@brecksvilleumc.com .
As circulated air effectively spreads the disease, the use of Air Conditioning and Fans is suspended when groups are in session. As

possible and necessary, rooms will be cooled prior to meetings.



The Class of 2020 wants to let you know how special you made them feel



Nathan Hudacek says *thank you* to all who sent congratulatory graduation cards. It really brightened his day and made him feel extra special! Chase Boldt and his family said that the delivery he received for his graduation was such a nice surprise. He was excited to see all the notes on the packages. Emma was excited to receive her gift basket and said, "Just the kid in me, I love the stickers!"

The Nelsons said, "Thanks so much to all for both the card shower and the gift bag of 'essential supplies'. Jake loved them and it really meant a lot to him in an otherwise turbulent senior year! And special kudos to whoever labeled all the treats!"

The Boldts said "It's a blessing to be a part of the church and we're grateful for the generosity of the time and effort put into these deliveries. Our seniors certainly appreciate them and know they are not forgotten."



Where we are starting....
10801 Grandview Avenue, Cleveland

Covid-19 underscores the importance of safe, affordable housing - because not everyone has a safe place to shelter. Our partnership with Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, Thrivent, and 15 area churches, will help another family have a safe place to call home. Our prayers, volunteer power and funding will help build a home and revitalize a neighborhood.

This year's house is a new build! The foundation has been poured and there was a house blessing on June 12.

The pandemic has slowed the project, and at present time, we will be allowed only 4 volunteers at each of our build dates, Aug. 13 and Oct. 3. We will also take part in a wall build date on September 12. If you'd like to help, email us!

Our project may move slower, but it will move forward! Learn more www.clevelandhabitat.org/how-to-help/faith.html



...and where we are going!

Regathering Survey Responses Mixed

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out our "Regathering Survey!" We had 132 responses. Those results guided the discussion during our 6/22/2020 leadership meeting which focused on if and when we might gather for in-person worship. There were a few notable results from the survey:

56% of those who responded felt they or someone in their home is in one of the "high-risk" categories.

When asked when you will be comfortable attending in-person worship, this is how you responded:

19% are comfortable now

11% will be comfortable this summer

8% will be comfortable this fall

40% will be comfortable attending when a vaccine or treatment becomes widely available

When asked if you would attend an outdoor service in the parking lot:

74% said yes

26% said no

When asked if you would be willing to attend an indoor service:

50% said yes

43% said no

When asked if your pattern of worship will change:

6% will worship exclusively online

60% will worship online as well as in-person

28% will return to your former pattern of worship

During the leadership meeting, we reviewed the survey results and the current COVID-19 trends in Ohio. We had very good conversation about our desire to regather for in-person worship and the risks associated with doing so. Primary concerns included the recent steady increase in COVID -19 cases in Ohio over the past five days. As of June 22, 2020, the number of cases reported in the last 24-hours was 729. Also, the Bishop has not yet moved us from "Phase 2" to "Phase 3" of the UMC plan.

At the end of the meeting, we narrowed the question to whether it was safe to gather for outdoor worship, assuming all precautions (masks, hand sanitizer, 6 feet social distancing, etc.) were in place and assuming we would not attempt to gather until at least July 17. The leadership voted and, based upon the information currently available, the overwhelming majority (14:4) voted to not reconvene beginning July 19. However, recognizing the desire by many of our congregation to gather in-person, there was a consensus that the staff should continue to prepare for in-person worship (assuming it would take place outdoors) so that we will be ready should the trends materially change in a positive direction or should the Bishop moves us to "Phase 3". In either case, we will reconvene leadership to vote.

We continue to encourage small groups to gather for connection. Options include gathering in small groups for worship, prayer, and continuing conversation about the scripture or sermon. We also look forward to the "Parking-Lot Communion" on July 12 as an opportunity to gather as a worship community, and discovering new ways we can gather in small groups to worship.—Pastor Heidi and Sue Hastings, Church Council Chairperson

YOUTH NEWS

Zoom Game and Trivia Night!

July 19 - RSVP before July 15

Come on down and be a participant on Zoom Game and Trivia Night! We are so excited to host you for a night of games, trivia, and more. This event is open to all middle, high school, and college students. Please RSVP by emailing Dana before July 10. See you there!

Socially Distant Ice Cream on the Square

July 26 at 2 pm - RSVP before July 20

Who's ready for a socially distant ice cream social? We are! Meet us on the square to walk over to Honey Hut and get some ice cream. Let's hang out and relax, while remaining safe. With all of our in-person events, masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer will be required for participation. Please RSVP by email Dana before July 20. This is going to be sweet!

Wednesday Zoom Devos

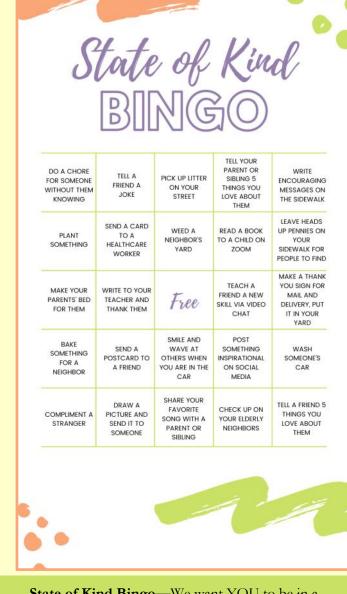
What are you doing Wednesday morning? Hang out with us together on ZOOM at 10 for devotions and connection. Email Dana for the sign in information. Check out our new devotional series on Instagram (@BUMCYouthMin) every Wednesday!

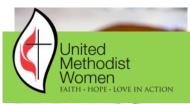


Contact Dana

E-mail — youth@brecksvilleumc.com Voicemail — 440-526-8938 x 237









Brecksville Home Days didn't happen this year, but you can bring Home Days home, with the **UMW's Famous "Texas-Sized" Chocolate Sheet Cake!**

Boil: 2 sticks butter

1 cup water ¹/₄ cup cocoa

Mix: 2 cups flour

2 cups sugar ½ tsp. salt

Add: 2 eggs

½ cup sour cream 1 tsp. soda In pan combine butter; water; cocoa and bring to boil. Remove from stove and combine flour, sugar, salt. Add to cocoa and beat well. Add eggs, sour cream, soda and mix. Pour into greased jelly roll pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 20 minutes. Frost immediately (recipe below!)

Frosting: Warm 1 stick butter, ¼ cup milk and 4 T. cocoa until butter is melted. Remove from heat. Beat in 1 lb. or 3 cups powdered sugar and 1 tesp. Vanilla. Spread on top of hot cake.

Makes one jelly roll pan size or 3 -- 8x8 square pans



E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

<u>office@brecksvilleumc.com</u>

440-526-8938

We have joyful news of new arrivals within our church family!

On May 27, Hallie McDonough was born, a blessing to her parents, Courtney & Brad, and her grandparents, Jack & Cathy Drescher. Congratulations all!

Jessica and Alex Vastartis's family grew on June 12, when baby Trevor was born. Gabriel and Natalie have a baby brother!

Congratulations to new grandmother Cindy Hubert and welcome to the world, baby Kade!

After 38 years of service to his company, Craig Czarnota is retiring. We wish you so much happiness, Craig, in this new phase of life!

Dear BUMC Friends! Leslie and I are so appreciative for all of the cards, prayers and well wishes that we have received. Your thoughtfulness and prayers have lifted us and no doubt been a powerful force in helping with my healing. I am recovering well from my surgery, but still have some diagnostics and consultation to complete for my treatment plan going forward. With an excellent medical team, your continued support and the help of God's healing hand I am optimistic for a great outcome. We enjoyed being a part of BUMC, are thankful for the friendships we developed and wish all the best. Stay safe. - Alan and Leslie Phillips



Jerry Bartholomew	1	Joan Bloch	11	Paul Frank	22
Domenic Bellone	2	Dave Lienert	12	Matthew Mellott	22
Brett Bender	2	Rus Welch	12	Anthony Robusto	22
J.J. Hotaling	2	Diana Jacob	13	Ruth Herman	23
Henry McCrodden	2	Jeanne Quade	13	Nathan Olszko	23
Jack McCrodden	2	Betsy Urso	14	Elizabeth Jaszczak	24
Derek Ritterbusch	2	Jane Whitehead	14	Carl Opatrny	24
Kathleen Koteles	3	Debbie Falko	15	Allison Toensing	24
Elizabeth Romance	3	Robert Kubicek	15	Addison Cave	25
Sarah Ford	4	Bill Neidinger	15	Larry Kaminski	25
Jim Lee	4	Matthew Nurre	16	Matthew Manocchio	25
Johnny Santora	4	Jim Fredrick	17	William Olszko	26
Douglas Geib II	5	Stephanie Ling	17	Carl Rossborough	26
Pat Prominski	5	Cara Santora	17	Laurie Riccardi	27
Gabrielle Marotto	6	Camille Baker	18	Adaline Knight	28
Janet Beck	7	Taylor Heisler	19	Ruby Ludwig	28
Wendy Chenney	7	Tim Kenney	19	Patricia Frank	29
Tyler Teare	7	Alexander Sebastian	19	Richard Koloda	29
Emily Telischak	7	Adriana Sottosanti	19	Janet Patterson	29
Kevan Fisher	8	Wade Hurley	20	Paul Dadas	30
Jon Wygonski	8	Amy Hazelton	21	Rachel Machesky	30
Kate Falko	9	Zachary Kardos	21	Laurie Robusto	30
Kevin Machesky	9	Miles Paroda	21	Beth Smith	30
Tracy Scott	9	Nick Rajkovich	21	Bryan Smith	30
Matt Hof	10	Stefan Wygonski	21	Eli Stacher	30
Karen Memmer	10	Michelle Botzman	22		



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. Did you know that 11 families have "adopted" flower beds on the church grounds? We're so thankful for the

loving care that they're providing and for all the ways that care makes the world more beautiful. Thank you, Brenda Calovini, for hearing the call to lead an anti-racism small group and for stepping out in faith and kindness to do it. Tony Petro spread so much joy with his beautiful bird churches. Thank you, Tony, for sharing your gifts with the congregation—and with the birds! We are thankful for each of you, named and unnamed, and all of the ways that you are helping people to see God's love in action.

Tuly 2020

		<u> </u>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
Please ch or call the churc	hings are always neck the web cal ch office, for up t nation and updat	endar, o the minute	1 Dawnbreakers 10 Youth Devos 7 Bible Study	2 Mowing Team— Lundholm/ Herzing 7 Worship Rebroadcast	3	4		
5 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 6:30 Anti-Racism Small Group	6 6 Kick Boxing in the Parking Lot 9 Enneagram Small Group	7 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	8 Dawnbreakers 10 Youth Devos 7 Bible Study	9 Mowing— Auble/Spencer 7 Missions & Outreach 7 Worship Rebroadcast 7:30 Choir	10	11 Bread Ministry—?		
	VACATION BIBLE	SCHOOL PREMIE	RS!	Online				
9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 11 & 12 Parking Lot Communion 6:30 Anti-Racism Small Group	13 6 Kick Boxing in the Parking Lot 9 Enneagram Small Group	14 10 Staff Mtg	15 Dawnbreakers 10 Youth Devos 7 Bible Study	16 Mowing Team— Brown/Sendrey Good Word Deadline 7 Worship Rebroadcast	17	18 Bread Ministry—?		
19 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 6:30 Anti-Racism Small Group 7 Youth Trivia Zoom	20 8 YSP Nehemiah Mission Day 6 Kick Boxing 9 Enneagram Small Group	21 10 Staff Mtg 7 Trustees	22 Dawnbreakers 10 Youth Devos 7 Bible Study	23 Mowing Team— Campbell/Bloch 7 Worship Rebroadcast	24	25 Bread Ministry— Millers		
26 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 1:30 Youth Ice Cream 6:30 Anti-Racism	27 6 Kick Boxing in the Parking Lot 9 Enneagram Small Group	28 10 Staff Mtg	29 Dawnbreakers 10 Youth Devos 7 Bible Study	30 Mowing Team— Lundholm 7 Worship Rebroadcast	31			



CONNECT WITH SMALL GROUPS One of the reasons that we yearn to gather together again is for community and connection—so we want to create as many opportunities as possible for people to gather in small groups. Small groups re communities of 6—8 people who gather to connect and grow with others in a relaxed environment. If you're interested in watching worship services with others, studying a book, going on a hike, learning to be anti-racist, finding God in gardening, or sharing a common interest like knitting or running, please reach out! Not interested in something scheduled? Join one of our Facebook Groups forming now!

www.facebook.com/Brecskvilleumc



Electronic Service Requested

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We encourage everyone to stay home and *help stop the spread*, but realize that there may be times that you need to visit the church office.

We are available by appointment

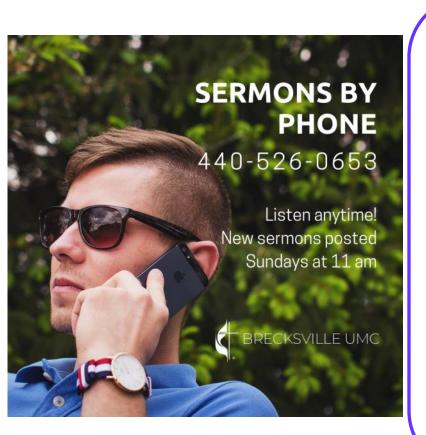
We are available by appointment only - masks required.

Please call 440-526-8938 or email Leslie@brecksvilleumc.com





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.



2020.cokesburyvbs.com/brecksvilleumc

Armor Up With Truth!

Decorate your picture of Sparky. Sparky is ready to Armor Up with Truth!



UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM

These days, the fight for racial justice has taken on a new urgency. To help in our work toward achieving racial justice, we have put together an Anti-Racist Resource List, which is posted on our website and includes websites, videos, movies, podcasts, social media links and more.

For your summer reading, here's a list of Anti-Racist Books suggested by the United Methodist Women. Consider hosting a book club or discussion group and take action for racial and social justice.

- <u>Fellowship of Love:' Methodist Women Changing American Racial Attitudes,</u> 1920-1968 Author: Alice G Knotts | Kingswood Books (1996)
- <u>Understanding and Dismantling Racism: The 21st Century Challenge to White</u>

 <u>America</u> Author: Joseph Barndt | Fortress Press (2007)
- <u>Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness</u> Author: Joseph Barndt | Fortress Press (2011)
- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race Author: Beverly Daniel Tatum | Basic Books (2003)
- <u>Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority*</u>
 Author: Tim Wise | City Light Books (2012)
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*
 Author: Michelle Alexander | New Press (2010)
- And Still the Water Runs: The Betrayal of the Five Civilized Tribes
 Author: Angie Debo | Princeton University Press (1973)
- At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance -- A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power Author: Danielle L. McGuire | Knopf (2010)
- Massacre at Sand Creek, How United Methodists Were Involved in an American
 <u>Tragedy</u>
 Author: Gary L. Roberts | Abingdon Press (2016)

*Former Reading Program Book



Resisting Racism—Starting the Journey

East Ohio Conference Multicultural Vitality is starting a 10 week study with a look at the movie, *Just Mercy* (streaming free now.) Watch the movie then join East Ohio Deacons for an online discussion in early August. Details coming soon! *Just Mercy* is based on the life work of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson and illuminates some of the ways systemic racism plagues our society.



Due to COVID-19, we had to make the difficult choice to cancel our Youth Service Project (YSP) trip that was supposed to take place from June 21-27. This is an annual trip that many of our youth look forward to and the unfortunate twists and turns that 2020 has brought to YSP have definitely given us some new perspective on what it means to commit to missions in our everyday lives.

Just because work camp has been cancelled doesn't mean God isn't still calling us to passionately pursue being the hands and feet of Christ. In this spirit, a group of YSP participants have committed to following that call, but a little closer to home.

Nehemiah Mission is offering "day work camp" experiences and we will be taking a group of 14 on July 20. Nehemiah has informed us that we will be doing exterior home repair, landscape and gardening, and some fixing up around Nehemiah Mission. We are thrilled to be able to bring the YSP passion to our very own Cleveland, OH. Please pray for our group as we safely contribute to our community. Thank you for your continued support of Youth Service Project!

- Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry