

NOVEMBER 2023

THE GOOD WORD

Monthly newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

Welcome to NOVEMBER

Hanging of the Greens

November 19 at 11:30 am

In preparation for the season of Advent, we decorate the building with Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands. Come be a part of this joyful gathering for all ages! Stay after the 10:30 service for food, Christmas music and fun! (And get a Christmas Eve yard sign!)

All Saints Sunday

November 5 during the 10:30 Worship Service

A day to remember those who have gone before us in the faith. The church bell will toll and candles will be lit in remembrance of those who passed away this year including Gerry Beaver, Margie Benedict, Donna Eilbeck, Alvin Hahn, Deanne Kloss, Carol Kubicek, Gerry McMaster, Lois Moston, Jim Mueller, Pat Neville, Ralph Slifcak, and Austin "Skip" Smith. Submit your loved one's name or photo to the church office by Wednesday, November 1. You are encouraged to bring (or email) a photo for the altar. Please contact Jaclyn Torres, Office Manager: jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938.

Veterans & New Member Sunday

November 12

It's a special Sunday! We set aside a time to honor our veterans and the sacrifices they made, and to lift up prayers for peace. (If you have served, the Fellowship Committee would like to recognize you. Please contact the church office!) Our worship service will begin with a special slide show of veterans. During this service, we will also welcome our newest members! A special coffee hour celebration will be held at 9:30 in the Parlor. Come thank our veterans and welcome our new members!

Dynamite Prayer - 10/29 to 11/19

There is a massive current of divine power — God's resurrection power — that is active and alive in the world today. What might God do if, through prayer, we opened ourselves to God's Holy Spirit? Let's find out together!



Brecksville UMC

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🌐 www.brecksvilleumc.com

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I love boxes. They're great ways to contain items that you'll need later—lunch, summer clothes, and Christmas decorations, to name a few. However, I've learned over the years that one thing that can't be put into a box is God.

We try to put God in all kinds of boxes—limiting what God looks like or does. We even tend to do this with our prayers—praying for God to do specific things: healing a friend's cancer or giving us an opportunity we really want. While these prayers are important and good, it's also important to open ourselves to another way of praying: breakthrough prayer.

Breakthrough prayers begin with the understanding that God cannot be contained—God is beyond anything our minds can fathom! Breakthrough prayers invite the Holy Spirit to unleash more than we could ever ask, think, or imagine in our lives, the church, and the world.

On October 29, we began a worship series called Dynamite Prayer, in which we are learning how to open ourselves to God's divine, dynamite power. Yes, we already started the worship series. Yes, the Sunday School is well underway. However: it's never too late to pick up a book either at the church or online and start praying!

As we look to 2024, where is God leading us? How is God calling us to be grace in action? How can we create safe spaces to grow with God and one another? How does God want us to be courageously inclusive? Where is God already working in our community? What incredible things is God leading YOU to do that you haven't even imagined yet?

In January 2024, we begin our new governance structure with our Leadership Board. While they are tasked with setting the vision and goals for BUMC, they don't do that in a vacuum—input and feedback from our whole community is vital in living out God's vision for us!

So, on **November 29th at 5:30, we'll gather for a "Dynamite Prayer Potluck."** Bring a dish to share (homemade or purchased!) as well as the dreams and ideas God has shared with you. Then, at 7:00, we'll have our final Church Council meeting and pray for the ways God is continuing to lead Brecksville United Methodist Church into 2024 and beyond.

If you have any boxes, you can break them down and put them in the recycling here at church. Because nothing can contain the power of God or the possibilities of this faith community!

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Heidi". The script is cursive and fluid.

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



How does a weary world rejoice?

An Advent series in Luke's Gospel

Advent Worship Series begins November 26

Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy in addition to feeling many other things at once: grief, anticipation, anxiety, excitement, disappointment, exhaustion. Perhaps many of us live with the myth that joy is not something we deserve—or that it is wholly out of reach. But our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy—fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Our joy is better when it is shared. And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a “thrill of hope” in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even and especially if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. *We celebrate the first Sunday of Advent on November 26.*



Advent Dinner Church

Wednesday, December 6

Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. Center yourself in the Spirit this season by taking time for community and conversation with Dinner Church. Come enjoy a simple meal, prepared by the church staff, and an informal worship experience that includes communion, prayer, song and conversation around a shared table. As always, all are welcome. Bring your friends! Please RSVP at BUMCLinks.com so we can plan a plentiful menu!

Christmas Extravaganza & Cantata—Sun, Dec 17

It's a Joyful Gathering for the season! There will be no 8:30 service, but kids and their families will join together for some Yuletide FUN in Fellowship Hall at 9:30, and our SNOW GLOBE photo booth will be set up in The Parlor. Join us at 10:30 in the Sanctuary for Cantata Sunday!

- ▶ Calling all singers! Rehearsals have already begun for this year's cantata and we are welcoming any new singers who would like to join. Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings and begin at 6:30 PM in the choir room. All voice types are welcome and music reading skills aren't needed. The cantata will be performed at the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 17. If you're interested in taking part in this project, please talk to Machala for more details. All are welcome to join!

Liturgy for the Weary A Longest Night Service—

Thursday, December 21 at 7 pm

For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. On the longest night of the year, we create space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle.

Friends, this service is for you. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God. We hope that this service is a gift to you, providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing. May you find peace in your journey



Pick up a yard sign at church! Invite your neighbors to celebrate Christmas Eve!

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

As this special day falls on a Sunday this year, our worship times are a little different. All services include candlelight and Silent Night!

10:30 am — Carols & Kids

3 pm — Carols & Organ

5 pm—Family Service

8 pm—Choir & String Quartet



Youth Christmas Party

December 3/ Fellowship Hall/ 5-7 pm

Mark it on your calendars now!

It's time to get excited for the Youth Christmas Party! This BUMC tradition is a highlight of the youth programming year and students in 6th-12th grade will not want to miss it. We will enjoy a bingo extravaganza with the chance to win a year's worth of free Wendy's Frosties—and lots of other prizes. There is also popcorn, candy, and other fun, festive food to dig into while students enjoy a Christmas movie on the big screen and partake in a Christmas craft. This is a great event to bring a friend and make some memories. RSVPs appreciated to youth@brecksvilleumc.com by November 26!



Global Ministries
® The United Methodist Church

Interested in becoming an EarthKeeper?

Save the date! March 1-16, 2024

It's an online cohort with 8.5 hours of online meetings + about 24 hours of independent, asynchronous work.

Contact Melanie for more details! →

Global Ministries EarthKeeper Training

I think about our church parking lot a lot. It's right outside my office window. On hot summer days, I can smell the asphalt. On rainy days, I can hear the water rushing off it. On winter days, I watch the truck dump loads of salt all over it. Right now, the trees that skirt it are ablaze and beautiful. Soon, they'll drop

their leaves and I'll be able to see Chippewa Creek from my desk chair. I see folks coming and going all week—preschool families, Dawnbreakers, recovery groups, the mail truck, folks at Chippewa Place. Our parking lot is busy. Our parking lot is necessary. And because of its size and impermeability, our parking lot is contributing to storm water run off and pollution. That's been nagging at me!

I had done some quick research, but found no easy answers. Then, I learned about Global Ministries EarthKeepers, a program to train and support United Methodist laity and clergy to address local environmental concerns and the systemic structures that give rise to those concerns. I applied and was accepted to represent the East Ohio Conference at the training in Hartford, Connecticut in October.

It was so awesome! We discussed eco-theology and United Methodist entry points into environmental stewardship, identified community assets and concerns, and developed project plans. The training was led by staff from Global Ministries. Our teachers in Connecticut were pastors who had completed EarthKeepers training. The UMC of Hartford, our host church, is home to a successful EarthKeepers project—a beautiful community garden. Projects my diverse group of EarthKeepers are working on include food insecurity & accessibility, environmental education, community nature trails on church grounds, wilderness retreats for urban church women, solar technology for churches, making clothing ministries in NYC more efficient, and developing a network for churches worshipping “in the wild.” Our church is now part of a network of resources!

We worshipped, sang and prayed every day and were asked to articulate our call to environmental ministry. I was stepping out of my comfort zone, but I came away from the experience energized and inspired by the many ways United Methodists are responding to our climate crisis and with a deeper understanding of what the Bible says about our responsibility to care for God's amazing creation.

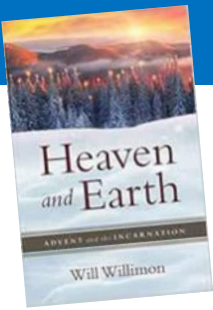
On Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8 pm, my fellow EarthKeepers and I will be commissioned by Global Ministries in an online ceremony live on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GlobalMinistries. I really hope you'll tune in!

I went to Connecticut thinking about a parking lot. I came home feeling God's call to put my faith into action! Are you interested in creation care, too? Let's talk!

- *Melanie Smith.* melanie@brecksvilleumc.com 440-526-8938



EarthKeepers Tour Blue Earth Compost



New Adult Education Class for Advent

Heaven and Earth by Will Willamon

Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way. Five weeks of Dynamite Prayer show us that it's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped by our human limitations of thinking, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, right here, right now.

Join Jenny and friends as we dive into a new study by Will Willamon called *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*. We will celebrate our God who was willing to bring heaven to earth and change absolutely everything. Throughout Advent, we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us.

Attention Families with Children!

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year! What will your plans for worship be? The 5 pm service will be our traditional Family Christmas Eve Service with living nativity. Is this service part of your family's Christmas Eve DNA? If so, do your little ones want to participate as a shepherd, animal, angel or wise one? That's awesome... let me know what they would like to be and I will work on getting the costumes together. We will have a rehearsal on December 20 at 6:30.

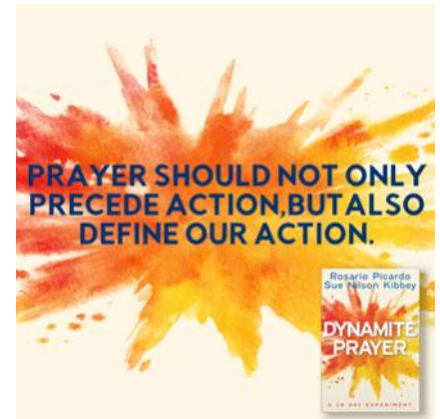


Is Aunt Betty wanting you to stop by at 4 pm and you just know you won't be able to make it to service in time? That's okay (we will miss you) but your kids can still participate in a special Christmas Eve pageant of sorts. At the 10:30 worship service we will have a retelling of the struggle Mary and Joseph experienced looking for a place to have baby Jesus. We will do this loosely connected to the celebration of Las Posadas. Does this time work better for you and your family for Christmas this year? Let me know and we will get those costumes together.

Can't get enough church on Christmas Eve and want to participate in both... love to hear it! Just let Jenny know.

Chimes will ring out at the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Does your child (grade 4 -7) want to participate? Let us know. The practices will be held on Sundays in December at 10:30. Attendance to these practices is required so that everyone is confident in their abilities on Christmas Eve.

Reach out to Jenny Gee, Education Director! 440-468-8938 ext 230 or Jenny@brecksvilleumc.com



Dynamite Prayer

Our Dynamite Prayer Experiment kicked off on October 22, but if you missed it, don't let a missed week keep you from taking part in this amazing opportunity. Grab a book at the church, order one off Amazon, or from your favorite bookseller, and jump right into the prayer experience. Please don't let financial hardships keep you from participating. Let us know in the office and we will secure a book for you.



Podcast Class *Sundays at 9:30. Room 301*

Join the conversation! Listen to a podcast on the theme of the upcoming Sunday's sermon and then get together to talk about it. What can we learn as people of faith? In person or via Zoom! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or contact the office.



2019 UMVIM Team at Camphor Mission

Camphor Mission Group Forming

Have you been considering a mission trip? This is your chance to get off your donkey and serve others in Liberia! We are building a team for a two week program to offer VBS, academic tutoring and a daily meal to the children at Camphor Mission.

Proposed dates are July 20 - August 5, 2024. Teens, young adults, mid-life adults, older adults - any and all are welcome to participate. We need a big team for this program, so please share the word. Contact Janet Kleckner if you have questions: 216-280-5511; mckleck@aol.com.



Stitch'n'Time is a group of knitters and crocheters who get together to create gifts for people in need, including prayer blankets and

hats & mittens. Yarn artists of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to join the cause on the third Tuesday of each month in the Parlor at 10 am. Questions? Reach out to Sandy Crist. (Contact the office for her number!)

Church Yard Clean Up Day SATURDAY, 11/18

Grab a rake and some gloves and come help tidy the church yard for the winter. 8:30 am until finished. Rain date 11/25

Many hands make light work!

There will be donuts!



SEW 4 GOOD



What do you do when you are gifted imperfect down comforters? You find a way to fix them for adults and kids in need of a warm blanket! A big box store donated a whole bunch of unfinished comforters. Our group's goal is to serge the edges and get them out in the world where people need them in November. Want to help warm people who are cold? Lend a hand on **Monday, November 13**. If you or a friend have a serger sewing machine, or know how to use one, we could use your help! We are also working on walker bags, clothing protectors, pillows and fidget blankets for friends in assisted living. All sewists, of all abilities are welcome!

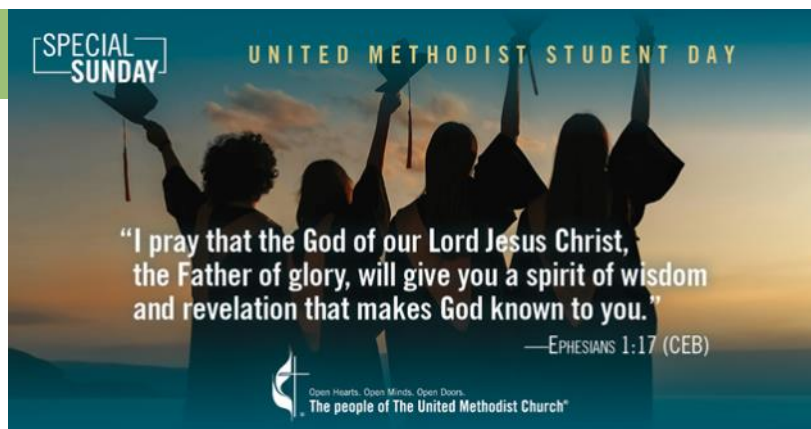
If you can't come to a meeting, but would like to help, please reach out. We can share patterns you can work on at home. We are also always looking for donations of fabric and notions. The group sews together at the church once a month on the second Monday. Come **anytime between 5 and 9 pm in room 301**. Reach out to let us know how you plan to participate or to ask any questions you have! Sew4Good@brecksvilleumc.com



POVERTY SIMULATION

Thursday, November 9: 9 am - noon
Macedonia United Methodist Church

Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families. But unless you've experienced poverty, it's difficult to truly understand. The Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) bridges that gap from misconception to understanding. CAPS is an interactive, immersion experience. It sensitizes community participants to the realities of poverty. FREE and open to EVERYONE. Registration at BUMCLinks.com!



November/December

Donation Drives

Giving Trees Return

Each season, we designate three Christmas Trees to help people in need. We will erect our Giving Trees after church on Sunday, November 19. Add some items to your shopping list in November and December! The trees will be erected in Fellowship Hall during Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 19. *More details coming soon!*

- **The Hat & Mitten Tree** (scarfs and gloves too). Purchased or handmade items to help warm those in need.
- **The Pantry Tree** non-perishable food and cleaning supply donations to help those served by area food banks.
- **The Angel Tree.** Select a tag from the tree and shop for a gift to help one of the agencies our church supports.

Thanksgiving Offering Benefits UM Student Day

Thanksgiving Sunday is November 26—United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday founded by United Methodist Church Sunday Schools who collected offerings to help advance education for their children. The fund was originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund. Today, United Methodist Student Day Sunday has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith. Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar – yes 100% - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future. *Use your Thanksgiving Offering Envelope, designate your gift "Student Day" or give online: Fund Code "Student Day."*



PEARL ROAD DINNER - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Come help serve a meal to the hungry. Details coming soon!
Sign up at BUMCLinks.com

Early Response Team Training

Saturday, November 11 at Chardon UMC—8:30—5 pm

Climate change is exacerbating more frequent and extreme heat waves, hurricanes, and other climate disasters, and in the wake of these disasters, United Methodists respond with compassion. Are you feeling the call to help? At a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Early Response Team (ERT) Training you will learn best practices for responding to disasters as a volunteer. Trainees learn how to interact with survivors, help survivors recover belongings, tarp roofs, safely remove debris, and more! Cost is \$25 and includes the manual, a t-shirt, UMCOR background check, and lunch. Upon successful completion of the training and the required background check, participants will receive an UMCOR ERT badge that is valid for 3 years. **Register by 11/1!** At BUMCLinks.com



Bike Fix It Day

The community continues to be incredibly generous with donated bikes and we have more organizations

that have expressed a need for bikes than we have repaired bicycles. This just means that we need YOU- whatever your skill level- to join us on **Saturday, November 18** as we repair donated bikes and get them cleaned up and ready to be distributed to our neighbors in need. **Stop by anytime 9 am—noon.**



United
Women
in Faith

faith
action
sisterhood

***You** are welcome to come! Most meetings
are in the church parlor on the second floor.*

Asbury Bremeth

Exploring World Religions

Thursdays, 11/9 and 12/14

We continue our study of world religions with a look at Buddhism at our November 9th gathering. Then mark your calendars for December 14 as Peg Welch joins us to share more about her time in India. In October our look at Hinduism left us with more questions than answers about the faith practices of Hindus. Peg will join us to answer some of our questions, tell us more about the caste system in India and show us how to celebrate a traditional Indian Christmas. Yes, she will be bringing treats as well as her highly entertaining stories as only Peg can tell!

All are welcome to learn together and share insights. Bring a friend! Bring your own coffee for conversation at 9:30. Program begins at 10 am.

United Women in Faith to Host Bake Sale Fund Raiser

We're having a BAKE SALE, Sunday November 5 in between the services, 9 am – 10:30 am (and maybe after the 10:30 a.m. service if there's anything left!) It's our biggest missions fundraiser of the Fall. **BAKERS NEEDED.** You don't have to be a UWF member to contribute to the sale. We know there's some others in our congregation who are delicious bakers. We ask that you put your cookies in groups of six to be ready to price and sell. Questions? Call Kathy Sopka, UWF President at 440-821-5203, or Sharon Judson at 330-603-9264.

Card-Making Thursday, Nov 2

Come have fun with your friends at our homemade card-making workshop! Refreshments are available at 9:30 am, the workshop begins about 10 am. Librarian Sue Price will lead us. But wait! We also have some experienced card-makers within our group. Let's hope that Lynn Hobzek, and Fran McClean will bring some of their own cards to share! Remember, each year, we have a basket of cards that you can address to local veterans to brighten their holiday! This year, we are doing one better by making some of our own. (You can make one also to take home with you.) Will you join us?



Save the date for the UWF Christmas Potluck, a fun, festive gathering in the Parlor on Thursday, December 7 at noon. Bring a dish to share and celebrate the season with us! Everyone is welcome! Questions? Email UWF@Brecksvilleumc.com



JOYFUL GATHERING

We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share I the life God offers us! Opportunities to gather are plentiful this season! Look through this newsletter to find details of the following—and add them to your calendar:

- ☐ UWF Card Making 11/2
- ☐ Veterans Sunday Celebration 11/12
- ☐ Hanging of the Greens 11/26
- ☐ Dynamite Prayer Potluck 11/29
- ☐ Advent Dinner Church 12/6
- ☐ UWF Christmas Potluck 12/7
- ☐ Christmas Extravaganza 12/17

Coffee Hour Hosts for November

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Parlor for refreshments

Thank you to all who make the 9:30 hour fun & tasty! The Parlor is THE place to be between services and that's thanks to people like you!

The church supplies the coffee, creamers, sugar, etc. Wiggle Room coordinator, Matt Botzman can often get the coffee started for you. If you can finish setting up, can help serve and host, or if you can clean up after the 10:30 service ends, you will be sharing the gift of welcome and hospitality—a great and precious gift of love! We can't do it without you!

Want to help? Sign up in the Parlor or at BUMCLinks.com





2024 Leadership Board Announced

We are excited to share our 2024 Leadership Board! On Saturday, October 21, this slate was voted upon at our annual Charge Conference. It includes individuals who are seasoned leaders at Brecksville UMC, as well as those who are new to leadership in this capacity. Each individual has a passion and heart for Brecksville United Methodist Church, and we are grateful that they have said “yes” to serving God in this way!

- Chair—Alan Scheufler
- 2024—Eric Louttit, Zane Burgstahler, Carolyn Jatsek
- 2025—Julie Kubek, Kristi Eberhardt, Jim Slagle
- 2026—Matt Gabor, Alan Scheufler, Deb Watkins

As a reminder, the Leadership Board combines our current Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees, and Finance Committee into one board. Their focus will be on doing the governing work of the church, equipping Ministry Teams and all of Brecksville UMC with a vision and goals so that we can work together for God.

We will continue to need many more individuals to step in and lead in all types of ways! Ministry Teams will focus on either long-term or short-term projects, such as Building Maintenance (long-term) and Fall Kick-Off planning team (short-term). Teams are great ways to use your God-given strengths and gifts to help Brecksville UMC grow in the incredible ways we haven’t even imagined yet! Here are a few of our Ministry Teams that will need members:

- Building Maintenance Team
- Missions & Community Engagement Team
- Fellowship Team
- Stewardship Team

Lots more information will be shared in the coming months to let you know how you can connect yourself deeper into BUMC and make a difference in our community and beyond!



Year End Charitable Giving

As we approach the end of 2023, you may be thinking about year end charitable donations.

The IRS allows our friends who are age 70.5 or older to transfer funds ***directly to Brecksville United Methodist Church*** from their IRA. This easy gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), reduces your taxable income. It will also count towards satisfying your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Contacting your IRA administrator as soon as possible ensures the IRA funds are withdrawn and deposited by December 31, 2023. Otherwise, your gift will not satisfy your 2023 RMD.

The IRS has some good information about charitable distributions [on their website](#) (shortcut to the article at BUMCLinks.com). For tax advice, please consult your tax advisor.

If you choose to designate a gift to Brecksville UMC, let us know your QCD is on the way to the office by alerting Jaclyn Torres at Jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com or by calling 440-526-8938. Please tell us your name, the gift amount, and your IRA administrator. Your generosity will be acknowledged promptly. - *The Finance Committee*



ELECTRONIC GIVING
is secure, quick
and easy.



November

Care and Prayer!

Looking for an easy way to brighten a day? Take a moment to say a prayer and send a note! It's Hayden's birthday, Loretta has a new address, Faith is missing her BUMC friends, and Joyce & Bob? Just because!

Week of November 5

Hayden Vincent

It's his birthday!

4004 North Steels Circle
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44224

Week of November 12

Loretta Timms

She has a new address!

9500 Broadview Rd
Danbury Senior Living
Broadview Heights, OH
44147-2302

Week of November 19

Faith McAllister

Faith's been missing us!

21 Poppy Ln
Granville, OH 43023-3200

Week of November 26

Joyce & Bob Wuerth

8349 Crinkleroot Clearing
Brecksville, OH 44141-1705

**Nominate someone who could
use a reminder that they are
loved for next month's list!**

Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



1 Nan Einheit	10 Michele Mihalich	20 Kyle Holmok
1 Karl Riccardi	10 Bryan Miller	21 Ellie Batcheller
1 Joyce Wuerth	10 Logan Vastartis	21 Rich Ling
2 Chia-Tien Chen	11 Terry Bennett	21 Shirley Paulovcin
2 Judy McBride	11 Jan Kaminski	21 Ian Roberts
2 Hayden Vincent	11 Jim McBride	21 Doug Robie
3 Tony Cipolla	12 Willy Baker	22 Kimberly Campbell
4 Jamie Schwendeman	12 Kevin Vastartis	22 Becky Paroda
5 Elaine Geringer	14 Monica Geib	22 Jennifer Sendrey
5 Ella Nelson	14 Gregory Warth	25 James Berry
5 Melissa Schillo	14 Brian Wygonski	25 Debbi Scheufler
6 Brandon Calovini	15 Isaac Becker-Howell	25 Ryleigh Wischmeier
6 Karl Robie	16 Sandy Crist	26 Douglas Farling
7 Ardyn Olszko	16 Eddy Davis	26 Kelly Meyer
8 Cathy Drescher	17 Mike Gezze	26 Natalie Teare
8 Tom Ellis	17 Zachary Johnson	27 Sean Brown
8 Brandon Fisher	17 Carol Snyderwine	27 Evan Davis
8 Darell Fisher	18 Jim Berry	28 Gina Goodwin
8 Charlotte Hocutt	19 Brandon Klipfell	28 Kim Ling
8 Linda Moore	19 Sharon Manocchio	28 Nick Rajkovich
8 Jim Slagle	19 Donald Raybuck	29 Kaitlyn Hazelton
9 Al Filips	19 Diana Wise	29 Harper Vastartis



Brecksville UMC is a thriving community of faith because of people like you—who care for one another and reach out in service to those who are in need. We lift of prayers of thanks for: Julie Kubek, who beautifully inscribes our Third Grade Bibles with each child's name every year. What a gift! Each

week, a group of people prepare our communion elements. Thank you, Sharon Judson, Dave Brown, Sherry Petkovsek, Ric Lesinski, Ann Zupanc, Matt Mellott and Cathy Girard for this important act of service. Jim Fredrick undertook a BIG project—digitizing all of the church blue prints and plans from 1950 to today. Thank you, Jim, for helping us preserve this important part of our church archives. Jen Speith is a member of our Sunday Welcome Team, and greets all with warmth and hospitality. Be like Jen! Join the Welcome Team! We lift up thanks for each of you, named and unnamed, and all of the ways that you radiate God's love!



We have new babies! Congratulations to Bryan & Olivia Miller on the arrival of Emma; to Jessica & Alex Vastartis on their new addition, Nikolai; and to Amanda & Frank Bianchi, who welcome Dominick. And we have weddings!

Congratulations to Monica Kotnik who wed Josh Thelen, and to Machala Comenscheck who married John Slike — on the same day—October 7. May your lives be blessed with love and happiness!

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS <i>Thank you for providing hospitality</i> <i>Sundays at 9:30 in the Parlor!</i> 11/5—Trustees 11/12—The Fellowship Team 11/19— TBD 11/26—TBD Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or in the Parlor.			1 6:30 a Brkfst 7 p Bible Study	 2 9:30 UWF 9:30 Pastor's Facebook Check In (FBLive) 6:30 Choir	3 12 God In Nature	4  <i>Turn your clocks back tonight!</i>
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 8 UWF Bake Sale 8:30 Contemplative Worship 9:30 Coffee & Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	6 10:30 Lectio Divina	7 <i>Election Day</i> 10:30 Staff 2:30 Chippewa Communion 7 Lectio 7 SPRC	8 6:30 a Brkfst 7 p Bible Study	 9 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 9:30 FBLive 6:30 Choir	10 12 God In Nature	11 8:30 to noon Yard Clean Up Day 
12 <i>New Member Sunday</i> <i>Veterans Sunday</i> 8:30 Contemplative Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour & Classes for All 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	13 10:30 Lectio Divina 5 Sew 4 Good 6 Bells	14 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Trustees 7 EarthKeepers Commissioning on FB Live	15 6:30 a Brkfst 4:30 Mission 7 p Bible Study <i>Newsletter Deadline!</i>	 16 9:30 FBLive 6:30 Bell Rehearsal (no choir)	17 9:30 UWF Board Mtg 12 God In Nature	18 Bike Fix It Day 9—12 
 19 8:30 Contemplative Worship 9:30 Coffee & Classes for All 10:30 Worship 11:30 Hanging of the Greens 5 Youth Group 5 Pearl Road Dinner	20 10:30 Lectio Divina	21 10 Stitch 'n' Time No Staff Mtg 10 Newsletter Production 7 Lectio	22 6:30 a Brkfst	 23  Office Closed	24	25 <i>Have you RSVPd for the Youth Christmas Party?</i>
26 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 8:30 Contemplative Worship 9:30 Classes for All 10:30 Worship	27 10:30 Lectio Divina	28 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Finance	29 6:30 a Brkfst 5:30 Prayer Potluck 7 p Church Council	30 9:30 FBLive 6:30 Choir	 Advent Dinner Church Wed. 12/6 at 7 pm	

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:15 am—2:15 pm

440-526-8938

info@brecksvilleumc.com



Lectio Divina

...
Mondays at 10:30 am

or

Tuesdays at 7 pm
in the Chapel

— ... —
A slow, meditative reading and
praying of a Scripture passage.

All are welcome.

There is no homework.

Drop in anytime!






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.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

FROM EAST OHIO MINISTRY PARTNERS

We asked these organizations serving neighbors in East Ohio for their Christmas wishes. Your support will help transform lives.

Consider a gift of  money,  toys,  small appliances,  hats & gloves,  volunteer hours,  toiletries,  meals and  prayer!

Flat Rock Homes (EOC 9174) www.flatrockhomes.org

Transforming the lives of persons with intellectual & developmental disabilities



Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland (EOC 9136) nehemiahmission.org

A neighborhood center for refugees, the elderly and disabled & those in need.



South Street Ministries (EOC 9195) www.southstreetministries.org

Transformation within the South Akron, Summit Lake, and Reentry communities.



Trials For Hope www.trials4hope.org

Providing wholesome food, personal care items & warmth to those in Cleveland.



West Side Community House (EOC 9933) www.wschouse.org

Transforming lives in this Cleveland community since 1890.



6 GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

Looking for gift ideas that help others? Here are a few options.
Have you found gifts that give back? Share them in our Facebook Group!



1

BUMC MERCH

We have t-shirts, mugs,
stickers and even socks!
Share your church
with merch!

BRECKSVILLEUMC.CREATOR-
SPRING.COM

COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

Empowering survivors of
homelessness by creating
things from recycled plastic.

COMMUNITYONTHERISE.COM



3

POINSETTIA DEDICATION

Dedicate a poinsettia for
Christmas Eve and send the
person you're honoring a
BUMC Greeting Card!

BUMCLINKS.COM



2

ORNAMENTS FOR ORPHANS

A fairtrade company offering
handmade Christmas
ornaments to prevent children
from becoming orphans.

ORNAMENTS4ORPHANS.ORG



4

THE WORTHY CO

a non-profit social enterprise
employing and empowering
survivors of trafficking.

WORTHY-CO.COM



6

DEDICATE A BIKE

\$50 goes a long way toward
bike parts! Your gift will help a
child or adult get some new
wheels.

BRECKSVILLE UMC
BIKE MINISTRY



5