

The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

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

October Issue : Published September 23, 2011

BUMC Youth Prepared Hot Dogs for Hungry Workers and Shoppers at the Garage Sale, September 17

A big **thank you** to all who helped with the church-wide garage sale. From sorting, pricing, and set up, to clean up, schlepping, donating, and cashiers, we are thankful for every volunteer!

Final numbers are not in but we estimate the sale raised \$3500 towards the Trustee's budget.

Thank you one and all!

Jane Petrie

Prayerfully Consider... 2012 Stewardship Campaign



Our Fall Stewardship Campaign will begin in October. During the weeks of the campaign, take time to think about how and why you are a part of the church.

Why do you give?



Southern Hills CROP Hunger Walk 2011

Sunday, October 2nd

Location: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Brecksville Station Rd. Bridge, 13512 Station Road, Brecksville, OH. **Registration:** 12:30-2:00 p.m. Sign up to join the BUMC CROP Walk team!

World Communion Sunday: Oct. 2



World Communion Sunday offers us a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. There will be a special collection for World Communion Scholarships that morning, too.

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65 Public Square,
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*Article deadline is the third
Friday of each month.*



8:45 First Service

10:00 Education Hour

11:15 Second Service



"Do Not Be Afraid"

Comments from Rev. Clark Stein

"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

- Matthew 6:34, *The Message*

Someone once wrote, "Fear is the wrong use of imagination. It is anticipating the worst, not the best that can happen."

A salesman, driving on a lonely country road one dark and rainy night, had a flat. He opened the trunk. No lug wrench. He saw a dim light from a farmhouse up the road and set out on foot through the driving rain. Surely the farmer would have a lug wrench he could borrow, he thought.

It was late at night and the man's thoughts were full of doubt. Of course the farmer would be asleep in his warm, dry bed at this hour. Maybe he wouldn't answer the door. Even if he did, he'd surely be angry at being awakened in the middle of the night. The salesman, picking his way blindly in the dark, stumbled on. By now his shoes and clothing were soaked. He imagined that even if the farmer did answer his knock he would probably shout something like, "What's the big idea waking me up at this hour?"



This thought made the salesman angry. What right did the farmer have to refuse him the loan of a lug wrench? After all, here he was stranded in the middle of nowhere, soaked to the skin. The farmer was a selfish clod. No doubt about that!

The salesman finally reached the house and banged loudly on the door. A light went on inside, and a window opened above. A voice called out, "Who is it?" His face white with anger, the salesman called out, "You know darn well who it is. It's me! And you can keep your blasted lug wrench. I wouldn't borrow it now if you had the last one on earth!"

Our fears can own us if we allow them that power. They eat away at all that is good and right about us. Throughout scripture when angels appear their first words are, "Do not be afraid." It seems to me that fear often prevents us from receiving what we should.

My prayer is for calm minds, open hearts, and attention in the moment for what God is doing right now. In this month of Halloween, grinding campaigning and many uncertainties, it is enough.

May you know peace.

Pastor Clark



UMW Meeting, Thursday, October 6

9:30 Continental Breakfast and Fellowship

10:00 Program will feature Jim Hixenbaugh. The topic is human trafficking, "Remember Nhu." This is a topic which is of interest to men and women. Everyone is welcome!



Music Bits

Each fall, the music department enjoys a time of reinvigoration; we shift into a higher gear after a summer of doing some coasting in idle. School is open, the fall is nearing, summer's leisure is concluding and we have begun another season with renewed purpose, action, and ministry!

Our **worship band** is hard at work to bring energetic and meaningful music of a contemporary nature to the 8:45 service each week. Vocalists and instrumentalists who enjoy this contemporary style of worship are always encouraged to come forward and be a part of our team. You can contact me at any time to learn more.

Chancel Choir returned to 11:15 worship on September 25, as the worship leaders at our traditional service. Chancel Choir is made up of people who enjoy preparing and performing a wide range of church music. We meet for rehearsals at 7:30 on Thursday evenings. New members are always welcome. Not only will you experience the fun and blessing of preparing music for worship each week, but some might say that come Sunday morning, you'll have the best seat in the house! And rest assured that we've got one of those seats reserved for you. Our task is truly a joyful and meaningful one, so prayerfully consider becoming a part of our musical family. Call me with any questions at 440-526-8938, email me at music@brecksvilleumc.com, or simply appear on a Thursday, at 7:30 pm in Room 304 (the choir room) as we undertake to praise God with our voices!

Chris Toth has another year of exciting music planned for our adult **Handbell Choir**. This group is open to anyone in 9th grade and up... we are already blessed to have a number of youth ringing with us. Handbell ringing is a challenging and rewarding musical activity and new ringers are always welcome. Either Chris or I are available to offer assistance to anyone who is ready to give it a try! Please contact me, or contact Chris at tothchristopher@att.net for more information.

Do also take note of the upcoming concert on **November 19**, as Chris and I will be sharing a neat variety of music for piano, organ and cello. We hope you'll join us for that special evening!

Soli Deo Gloria, Joy Fenton, Director of Music Ministries

WANTED

Women who want to be a part of our yarn ministry! New and experienced women who want to knit/crochet are welcome.



There are no qualifications to be a member! Any age! Come and learn to knit/crochet for FREE! Bring a project to work on or help with one of several charity projects! We can help you read a pattern and we even take donations of yarn and crochet supplies. Good people, good friends, and good conversation! We have worked on prayer shawls for shut ins and baby items for Providence House. Currently we are working on caps, mittens and scarves for the Christmas Mitten Tree. We welcome any suggestions for charity projects.

We will plan to meet the **FIRST and THIRD Tuesday of each month, starting October 4**, through March from 7pm-8pm in the Youth Room (4th Floor, next to the elevator.)



WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN SUNDAY SCHOOL?

Sign up for "Sunday School BLAST," a weekly e-mail highlighting Sunday School news. E-mail the office to sign up!

BUMC Music Board GAME NIGHT

OSU v. Nebraska Tailgate Party



The Music Board is hosting a tailgate event for the OSU at Nebraska game on **Saturday, October 8**. Enjoy grill fare, popcorn, cotton candy, sno-cones and more at this family-friendly event!

The game will be shown in the North parking lot. Plan to park at the medical building on Old Stadium Dr. or across Brecksville Rd. Bring your lawn chairs and dress in your Biggest Fan attire.

Movies will be offered in Fellowship Hall for younger children. Admission is FREE and food/beverages will be available for purchase as we watch the game on the big screen! All proceeds will benefit the BUMC Concert Series, which provides free outreach concerts to the greater community.



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

On Sunday, August 28, Kristin and Bill Bisco welcomed daughter Bryn Valerie Bisco to the world. Congratulations to Bryn's grandparents, Robin and Donald Raybuck, on the birth of their new granddaughter!

Correction to last month's Milestone: Our apologies to the Warth family for incorrectly announcing that Stephanie had married Ian Jacobs. Congratulations to **Tiffany** on her wedding!

On September 20, Fred Priest blew out the candles on his birthday cake and celebrated a big milestone—he turned 90! Happy birthday, Mr. Priest!

Did you attend Third Grade Bible Sunday? With their Bibles, the third graders received letters from church members with memories about their first Bibles. Do you remember yours?

Speaking of history, did you hear about the Church History Club? It meets the 3rd Thursday of the month to research BUMC archives!

Pastors Bob and Libby Kuntz celebrated the 30th anniversary of their ordination on September 19. We thank God for their ministry!

Dear Members of The United Methodist Church:

I wish to thank each one of you for your prayers, phone calls, and beautiful cards. I will never forget it. It helped me so much to know that you were praying for me. Specially thank you to Rev.Libby Kuntz. She was wonderful and very inspirational with her prayers and visits. We have a caring church. Many blessing to all. I am doing fine. - Marisol Wylie



October Birthdays

Melissa	AuWerter	10/01	Lawry	Kardos	10/14
Bradley	Toman	10/01	Carrie	Zakarowsky	10/14
Loretta	Stratis	10/02	Michelle	Blatnik	10/15
Donald	Butler	10/03	Josh	Kwiatkowski	10/15
Lois	Giesel	10/03	Thuy Ai	Nguyen	10/15
Cynthia	Hubert	10/04	Robert	Suazo	10/15
Mitchell	Madaus	10/04	Karen	Thielman	10/15
Alexander	Vastartis	10/04	Marilyn	DeMoor	10/16
Patricia	Butler	10/05	Cathy	Walden	10/16
Edward	Hayes	10/05	Megan	Culley	10/18
Robin	Raybuck	10/05	Carly	Kubek	10/18
Richard	Burroughs	10/06	Libby	Kuntz	10/18
Kayden	Buttolph	10/06	Johanna	Bondra	10/21
Madison	Hart	10/06	Mark	Hubert	10/21
Everett	McDonel	10/06	Daniel	Hurder	10/21
Kay	AuWerter	10/07	Hazel	Gear	10/22
Herbert	Einheit	10/07	Garth	Olszko	10/22
Jean	Hlay	10/07	Sara	Kwiatkowski	10/24
Bailey	Archacki	10/08	Nancy	Zeller	10/24
Michael	Jaszczak	10/09	Geraldine	Beaver	10/26
Cecilia	Podolny	10/09	Gretchen	Mates	10/26
Mark	Spencer	10/09	Chuck	McLuckie	10/26
Lauren	Chenney	10/10	Chris	Nguyen	10/26
Matthew	Sendrey	10/10	Nathan	Rosenthal	10/26
Edward	Hayes	10/11	Arthur	Wise	10/26
Kristine	Hollo	10/11	Beverly	Dubin	10/27
Jane	Petrie	10/11	Bethany	Hogan	10/28
Nicholas	Telischak	10/11	Dean	Rybak	10/28
Julianna	Tait	10/12	Jason	Bell	10/29
Thelma	Loeffler	10/13	Brittany	Hotaling	10/29
Ryan	Rybak	10/13	Ben	Magistro	10/29
			Anet	Smith	10/29
			Brenden	Meyer	10/31
			Leslie	Selig	10/31



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we have recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others: **Jim Frederick** who dropped what he was doing one Saturday morning to tend to a water leak at the church. **Ruth McDonel** who is always willing to reach out to people in our church family when they are in the hospital or ailing. **Joanie Olszko** who makes sure everything is in order for the start of the Sunday School season - and every Sunday! **Bob Lundholm** who is always there when the church calls and always serves with a smile. **Jane Petrie** who's talents for organization are renown and whose garage sale expertise is invaluable!

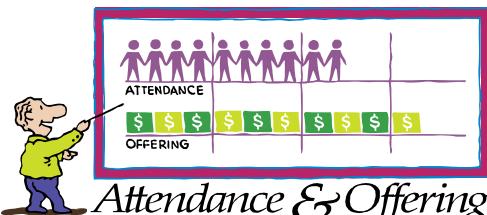
This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24



The Abbey of Genesee is a Roman Catholic community of monks who are dedicated to the worship of God in a hidden life within the monastery following the Rule of St. Benedict. They lead a life of solitude and silence, prayer and penance in a joyful spirit of faith. At your weekend at the abbey you are encouraged to follow the worship schedule (six services daily) of the monks. The rest of the time you are open to pray, meditate, conference with a monk, hike, eat, and sleep. Your single room is furnished with a bed, a writing desk and a comfortable chair. At the prayer services, you will hear and participate in the chanting of the Psalms. You will live from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon in total silence. This may sound daunting.... and yet we remind each other that it is in silence that we can hear the still, small voice of God. Interested in learning more? Check out the Abbey Website at www.geneseeabbey.org, talk to Craig Czarnota or Kendall Lancaster, or call the church office to be put on the list (440) 526-8938.

The weekend retreat at the Abbey is November 4-6. Suggested donation to the Abbey is \$70 per person – this includes two nights private room and all meals. We will car pool the 4 hour trip to the abbey, which is just south of Rochester, NY. Let the church office know by October 16. It's filling up fast!



Attendance & Offering

We list each week's attendance and offering in our bulletin announcements. Have you seen it? Below is a chart with information from the past four weeks.

Date	1st Service Attendance	2nd Service Attendance	Offering
August 28	65	127	\$4,872
September 4	54	122	\$6,768
September 11	177	107	\$11,556.50
September 18*	130	110	\$11,814

*We set a record for Adult Sunday School with 52 in one class!



Pedal the Parkway With Purpose

Join the Pedaling Parsons on October 15 for a fall bicycle ride to benefit Camphor Mission Station in Liberia. Get out in the fall colors for a 40-mile bike ride from Strongsville UMC to the Marina in Lakewood and back to the church. We will meet at 9 a.m. for breakfast and a peptalk then pedal on a fully-supported ride to lunch along the river. Does 40 miles sound way too far for you? Then pedal to lunch and carpool back to your car. Cost is \$20 per person and includes both meals and a donation to Camphor. Do you aspire to do more riding? Then connect with the Parsons, a group of United Methodists who, in addition to a series of weekend rides, go on a week-long tour to raise money for missions. This year they pedaled from Cincinnati to Cleveland, raising \$20,000 for the Mission Station. Interested? Contact Brian Sheetz, briansheetz@hotmail.com.

Change of Plans

The city-wide Choral Festival scheduled for October 22 has been postponed due to unforeseen conflicts. Please keep an eye on the Good Word in the future, as the city hopes to reschedule this event for a later date! In the meantime, mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 19, at 7:30pm**, when Joy Fenton and Chris Toth will present an evening of music, featuring works for piano, organ, and cello. This will be the first concert in our fall concert series, and you won't want to miss it!

"WORD!"

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

October 8

Fall Service Day
9am-12pm
(Grades 6-12)

October 9

Lazer Xtreme
with the North Coast
District Youth!
(Grades 6-12)

October 16

High School
Sunday School field trip
to Garfield Memorial UMC
10am-2pm
(Grades 9-12)

October 16

Middle School
Fall Harvest Fun day 4pm-?
(Grades 6-8)

October 28

9pm EPIC Lock-In
with
Community of Hope Youth
(Grades 9-12)



FALL SCHEDULE



Autumn is upon us and October finds our youth busy with sports, marching band, homecoming and plenty of other fall activities. This month we'll be spending lots of time in fellowship with each other and with other Christian youth in the area.

Due to our busy schedule, we will not meet for EPIC at our regular times. Instead we will enjoy the other activities that we have planned.

Please pay special attention to the calendar in this month's Good Word and check online for updates.

We will need lots of volunteers this month to help with driving on Oct. 8, 9 and 16. Please let me know if you are able to help. If you haven't received a fall activities calendar, there are extra copies right outside my office.

If you aren't on my e-mail list and would like to be included, please be sure and send me a quick note at youthdir@brecksvilleumc.com

It's going to be a busy month full of fun and fellowship! Be sure to join us!

God Bless, Cristy Shumaker, Interim Director of Youth Ministry

Halloween Lock-In

Friday, Oct. 28

9 pm - 10 am



High School Youth—Come out and be a part of a lock in that will shatter any thoughts or pre-conceived notions of the perfect lock in...We'll be playing games, hanging out, having our own personal concert, and hearing a message that will blow your mind.

Who: All high school youth from BUMC & Community of Hope

Where: BUMC!

Why: Because sometimes EPIC lock-ins are required in the hectic life of a high schooler.

Cost: Bring \$5, a 2-liter of caffeine, and a snack to share.

2011 North Coast District Walk to Bethlehem



Are you looking for ways to increase your physical, spiritual and emotional health? Join us on an imaginary trip to **Bethlehem**! Our team has begun logging activities each week with the goal of accumulating enough "miles" to reach **Bethlehem** by Christmas. There is a lot to learn along the way about new cultures, new food, and missionary work while incorporating exercise and spirituality into one's lifestyle. It's easy! Pick up a tally card in the Parlor and record a check mark each time you:

- Exercise 30 minutes
- Make healthy eating choices
- Make time for Bible study, worship, daily devotions, etc.
- Reach out to others in Mission.
- Earn bonus points for wellness check ups, flu shots, etc.

As of 9/17, with 6 churches reporting, we have walked to **1625** miles and are walking from New York City, across the Atlantic Ocean towards our next stop, Casablanca. Need more details? Call the church office!

Young Disciples Sunday School

There's a lot going on in Young Disciples Sunday School this year! Your presence matters!! We're talking about **real issues** and **real people**. Ask yourself...

- How do I handle stress at school and in my family?
- How do I deal with people that I don't really like?
- How do I deal with people who don't really seem to like me?
- How do I respond to my parents or teachers when I'm pretty sure that *they're wrong and I'm right!*?
- Are there things in my life that seem totally unfair?

This year, we'll begin to discover what our faith has to say about these questions and others that are sure to pop up in discussion. We're not just looking for *easy answers...* we're looking for *new ways of thinking* about tough questions. So come prepared to be honest about what's going on in *your* life!

The Attendance Challenge

- Every time you attend Sunday School, our team earns a point.
- If you bring a friend or a guest to Sunday School, that's a point for our team, too!
- If you're at Sunday School every Sunday in any given month, you earn **2 bonus points!!**
- Every time we earn 100 points as a team, we'll enjoy a class at the delicious location of our choice.

That means we need you! So roll out of bed on Sunday mornings, and we'll see you at Young Disciples.



Coffee Fellowship

In October, our Youth Board will be hosting coffee each Sunday morning. You are invited to come to The Parlor between services for fellowship and to learn more about the great ministry these folks are doing. Going forward, a different group will host coffee each month. Here's the Fall schedule:

October: Youth Board; **November:** Finance; **December:** Worship

MISSIONS

On Sunday, October 2nd, Missions Commission will have sign-up sheets for hands-on service opportunities at the Cleveland Foodbank, Pearl Road UMC Sunday Dinners (previously known as Brooklyn Memorial Dinners) and serving light meals at Cornerstone of Hope. Please bring your calendars and sign up. Our congregation has faithfully volunteered at each of these service organizations. On the first Sunday of every month, Missions Commission will continue to have mission opportunity sign-up sheets for our congregation. We look forward to seeing you then.

Writers Wanted!



Interested in contributing to this year's Advent Devotional project? This is a wonderful way to share your experience of faith with others. Please contact Pastor Clark, Joy or Jenny or email the office for more information. office@brecksvilleumc.com

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Al & Barb Harper	 Communion Stewards	This Month's Scriptures: <i>October 2: World Communion Sunday. Luke 17:5-10, Lamentations 1:1-6. Sermon: "Owning up, moving on"</i> <i>October 9: Jeremiah 31:27-34, Luke 18:1-8. Sermon: "Prevailing winds" (Continued below...)</i>				1 <i>District Lay Speaker Academy</i>
2 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Educ. Hr. 11:15 Worship 12:30 CROP Walk 2 Hiking Club	3 <i>7 Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study</i>	4 <i>11 Staff Mtg</i> <i>7 Knitting Group</i> 	5 <i>6:30 Dawn-breakers</i> <i>3:30 CMAP</i> <i>6:15 Cycling Club</i> <i>6:15 Yoga</i>	6 <i>Spencer & Huth Mowing</i> <i>9:30 UMW</i> <i>3:15 Quest</i> <i>4 Wo. Emmaus</i> <i>5 Soul Quest</i> <i>6:15 Handbells</i> <i>6:15 HS Ensem</i> <i>7:30 Choir</i>	7 <i>7 Emmaus Reunion</i> <i>9 Men's Bible Study</i>	8 <i>OSU Tailgate Party</i> <i>Youth Service Day (details to follow)</i>
9 8:45 Worship 10 Educ. Hr. 11:15 Worship 2 Youth Event: Northcoast District Lazer Xtreme	10 <i>7 Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study</i>	11 <i>9:30 Staff Mtg</i> <i>1 Blood Drive</i> <i>7 Ad Board</i> <i>8 Committee Mtgs</i>	12 <i>6:30 Dawn-breakers</i> <i>3:30 CMAP</i> <i>6:15 Cycling Club</i> <i>6:15 Yoga</i>	13 <i>Bloch & Campbell Mow</i> <i>9:30 Asbury B.</i> <i>3:15 Quest</i> <i>5 Soul Quest</i> <i>4 Wo. Emmaus</i> <i>6:15 Handbells</i> <i>6:15 HS Ensem</i> <i>7:30 Choir</i>	14 <i>7 Emmaus Reunion</i> <i>9 Men's Bible Study</i> <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i>	15 <i>Wedding</i>
16 8:45 Worship 10 Educ. Hr. 10 Youth Sunday School Trip to Garfield Mem 11:15 Worship 2 Fall Fun Day, Middle School	17 <i>7 Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study</i>	18 <i>9:30 Staff Mtg</i> <i>7 Knitting Group</i> <i>7:30 Finance</i> <i>7:30 Trustees</i>	19 <i>6:30 Dawn-breakers</i> <i>3:30 CMAP</i> <i>6:15 Cycling Club</i> <i>6:15 Yoga</i> <i>7 SPR</i>	20 <i>Herzing & Lundholm Mow</i> <i>10 History Club</i> <i>3:15 Quest</i> <i>4 Wo. Emmaus</i> <i>5 Soul Quest</i> <i>6:15 Handbells</i> <i>6:15 HS Ensem</i> <i>7:30 Choir</i>	21 <i>7 Emmaus Reunion</i> <i>9 Men's Bible Study</i> 	22 <i>6:15 Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Place</i>
23 8:45 Worship 10 Educ. Hr. 11:15 Worship No Epic this week.	24 <i>7 Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study</i>	25 <i>9:30 Staff Mtg</i>	26 <i>6:30 Dawn-breakers</i> <i>3:30 CMAP</i> <i>6:15 Cycling Club</i> <i>6:15 Yoga</i>	27 <i>Hayes & Sendrey Mow</i> <i>3:15 Quest</i> <i>4 Wo. Emmaus</i> <i>5 Soul Quest</i> <i>6:15 Handbells</i> <i>6:15 HS Ensem</i> <i>7:30 Choir</i>	28 <i>7 Emmaus Reunion</i> <i>9 Men's Bible Study</i> <i>9:30 UMW Board Mtg</i>	29 
30 <i>Children Led Worship</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Educ. Hr. 11:15 Worship	31 <i>7 Jesus in the Gospels Bible Study</i>	This Month's Scriptures (Continued from above): <i>October 16, 2011: Psalm 99, Matthew 22:15-22. Sermon: "On your toes"</i> <i>October 23, 2011: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Matthew 22:34-46. Sermon: "Q and A"</i> <i>October 30, 2011: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12. Sermon: "Take it to heart"</i>				

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

Calendar
Click the **General Calendar** link to view information about events today, this week, and in the year ahead!

The Good Word →
Our newsletter is found by clicking the **Our Newsletter** link. View this month's issues and issues from the past year!

Like Pictures?
Click **Photos!**

Contact us!
Click any of the names in **blue** to send an e-mail. The church address and phone numbers are listed here.

Getting Married? Click here for information about planning your BUMC wedding.

Ministry Focus: Each of these tabs will open up a new window with details about that area of ministry.

Take a class!
Click this link to sign up for adult Sunday School.

Upcoming Events
Click on the blue links to open up a new window with details about each event.

In the News
Click this link to open a searchable archive of Good Word articles. Wondering when the Chili Cook Off was last year? You can find out here! Click the blue titles to learn more about each topic.

Getting to Know Our Website

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Directions →
People who haven't been to the church before can look here for directions.

Scriptures
Click the scriptures in **blue** to read the verses from recent and upcoming Sundays.

Helpful Links
Click the links in **blue** for more information from the United Methodist Church.

Notice a Mistake?
Let the office know. We'll correct it right away!

Our Website is constantly changing and is a rich resource for information about the church.

Have you visited it lately? Look what you can find there!

Get The Good Word!
Click here to sign up for an e-mail copy of our newsletter delivered right to your e-mail box.

Facebook
Click here to "like" BUMC!



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The United Methodist Church's 2004 *Book of Resolutions* calls us to educate ourselves about the issue of Human Trafficking and to work for its eradication: ***"The United Methodist Church is called to model that the church universal is the very first place to which people can turn in their hunger for justice, wholeness and sanctuary. ... The church is given by God to be a place in which broken people – both victims and perpetrators of sexual violence – can be welcomed, heard, embraced with the gospel and even healed."***

After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today. The International Labor Organization estimated that in 2005 more than 12 million people around the world have been forced to work against their will under threat of punishment.

The United Nations defines human trafficking as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. In short, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery.

Most of us would think that human trafficking only happens outside of the United States. This is far from the truth. The U.S. State Department estimates that each year between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the U.S. Many trafficked persons are women and children coercively brought into the sex industry and other kinds of labor.

Human trafficking is estimated to be a worldwide enterprise worth \$32 billion a year. Nationally, over half of all human trafficking cases involve victims under the age of 18, and most girls who are engaged in sex trafficking begin between the ages of 12 and 14. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that at least 100,000 American children become engaged in child prostitution and child trafficking each year.

Human trafficking claims victims from all walks of life and all areas of the world. Ohio plays a major role in this crime due to our location and extensive system of roads and highways, which allows traffickers to travel easily throughout the State and into nearby regions.

Toledo is the fourth largest gateway city for sex trafficking in America-- behind only Miami, Portland and Las Vegas. But many Las Vegas victims come from Toledo, pushing it up to third place overall. Professor Celia Williamson of the University of Toledo chaired a task force to research Ohio's

contribution to the child sex trafficking industry. The results showed that the problem was worse than previously thought: 1,000 new American children are coerced annually. Toledo is also a major site for foreign born victims and a leading recruitment gateway. The study concluded that Toledo has the highest per capita victim rate in the USA.

Until this year Ohio was one of only 7 states that did not have a stand-alone human trafficking law. Senator Teresa Fedor and Senator Tim Grendell sponsored a bill that would increase the penalty for crimes that include human trafficking making it a second-degree felony. If convicted, a person could serve up to 8 years in prison for either sex crimes or "involuntary servitude" crimes. On December 1, 2010, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 235 to make human trafficking a stand-alone felony in Ohio. Governor Strickland signed it into law.

The Polaris Project, a national group that focuses on combating the forced-sex trade, moved Ohio up a notch in its annual ratings of state human-trafficking laws. Ohio now meets four of the organization's 10 criteria, an improvement from 2010 when Ohio was in the bottom tier.

You Can Take action:

- Educate yourself: <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.
- Partner with those working to end trafficking and exploitation.
- Find out whether your pension and investment funds are being invested in companies profiting from human trafficking? If so, divest!
- Identify advocacy groups and contribute financially to the work of freeing victims of human trafficking.
- Find out what services are available for runaway teens on the streets of your city and how you can support them.
- For the larger effort, call, write, or email Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/>) or US Attorney General Eric Holder (<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/>) to declare your support for strongly enforcing anti-trafficking laws and upholding human rights globally.
- For further information on human trafficking, contact Linda Bales, lbales@umc-gbcs.org or (202) 488-5649, at the General Board of Church and Society.
- **Attend the UMW program on Thursday, October 6. Speaker Jim Hixenbaugh will address the issue of Human Trafficking.**