

The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

April 2015, Issue

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

Published March 27

Are you willing to make the journey?



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is a deeply meaningful time in our Christian story. On March 29, we celebrate Palm Sunday, the day on which Jesus entered Jerusalem in the humblest manner imaginable – on a donkey – to bring his message about God’s kingdom to the Jewish people gathered for Passover. And while the common folks shouted “Hosanna,” the religious teachers and church officials immediately realized that Jesus’ teaching was dangerous and threatened their status quo.

So often, we make the leap from Palm Sunday to Easter without considering the rest of the story. During his last week on earth, Jesus taught the crowds, shared meals with his disciples, and wrestled with his own calling. These are each an important part of the journey to Easter, and we invite you to share that journey with us.

On Friday, April 3, at 7:30 pm, we will gather in the Sanctuary for worship. In this Tenebrae service, we will face the darkness together – the darkness of human greed, fear, exclusion – and in so doing, we claim that darkness will not have the final word.

Tenebrae Worship. Friday, April 3 ~ 7:30 pm. Make the journey.

Fair and Just Palms

Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches, is re-enacted on Palm Sunday in Christian congregations worldwide as Holy Week observances begin. Unfortunately for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

Hard-toiling laborers in Central America typically earn their living from middlemen who pay them based on the volume of palms they harvest. To increase yield, they employ harsh harvesting techniques. Not only does this put palms at risk for species depletion, but it also endangers the entire forest.

Some harvesting communities have organized cooperatives that work to develop a new structure for harvesting palms. Called Eco-Palms, the fronds are harvested in a sustainable manner that protects the environment and provides a fair income for palm harvesters. Workers are paid by quality rather than quantity. This helps limit the amount of palms harvested from the forest.

We purchase our palms from The University of Minnesota’s Eco-Palms program, ensuring that the leaves were harvested in an environmentally sensitive manner by workers getting paid a fair price.

As you celebrate Palm Sunday, please say a prayer of thanks for those who harvested our palms, for their families, for their communities, and for those who minister to them.





Worship Schedule

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10 Education Hour

11:15 Traditional Worship

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music & Worship:

Joy E. Parker

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Christian Education:

Jenny Gee

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Youth Ministry:

Courtney Drescher

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Business Manager: **Mike Memmer**

finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: **Melanie Smith**

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Assistant Office Manager:

Leslie Miller

leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

Church School Registrar:

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

Organist: **Chris Toth**

tothchristopher@att.net

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Editor, Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com



John 21

A big dog saw a little dog chasing its tail and asked, "Why are you chasing your tail so?" Said the puppy, "I have mastered philosophy; I have solved the problems of the universe which no dog before me has rightly solved; I have learned that the best thing for a dog is happiness, and that happiness is my tail. Therefore, I am chasing it; and when I catch it, I shall have happiness."

Said the old dog, "My son, I, too, have paid attention to the problems of the universe in my weak way, and I have formed some opinions. I, too, have judged that happiness is a fine thing for a dog, and that happiness is in my tail. But I have noticed that when I chase after it, it keeps running away from me, but when I go about my business, it comes right after me."

After the crucifixion and resurrection the disciples were a mess. Not completely understanding, at a loss for what to do next, at least in the story of Mark and John, they wind up right back where they started. Tired of chasing their tails in pursuit of something they just didn't seem to be able to understand, they took a break and went back to what they knew quite well. They went home. They went fishing. And at home, doing what they knew how to do the best, Jesus, whom they missed, showed up. When they quit chasing, there he was. Relationships were restored. Energy was renewed. Another meal was prepared and shared. They were affirmed in their new business and found, perhaps, that happiness followed after them. Maybe the old dog can still teach new tricks...

Pray for peace,

Pastor Clark



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Church Membership—Establishing Roots in Our Faith Community. If you would like to explore church membership or learn more about what it means to be a United Methodist, Pastor Clark would love to hear from you! 440-526-8938 or pastor@brecksvilleumc.com.

New Life for Old Glasses



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

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



Special Thanks to the Trustees for hosting Coffee Hour in March!

Our April hosts will be

Finance.

EDUCATION HOUR ALL AGES Sunday at 10



Our new session of Sunday School Begins April 12 during the 10 o'clock Education Hour.

Explore another path on your journey of faith. Try a class during the education hour! In a weekly small group, you can experience friendship, support and learning within the greater church community. The two classes below for adults begin after Easter on Sunday, April 12. Kids will continue their lectionary learning during the 10 o'clock hour. Believe it or not, this is the last session of classes before our summer break!

Christianity and World Religions

The diversity of faiths and beliefs in human experience makes the study of religion not only fascinating – but incredibly valuable. Religion plays an essential role in societies worldwide, motivating decisions in every facet of life. Religion isn't simply an aspect of human culture—our beliefs define who we are and directly affect how we view the world.

Join Jenny to take a look at Adam Hamilton's study - *Christianity and World Religions: Wrestling with Questions People Ask*. Over this six week course we will explore the major world religions of Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism – and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. As a group we will have the opportunity to discuss our questions about other religions openly and with honesty. The video portion of the series includes interviews with religious leader from each tradition.

It is through an understanding of the faith walk of others that we are able to build bridges, grow in our own faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbor, and find positive ways to share the gospel. Please plan to join us starting April 12 in the Chapel.

The Gospels in Parallel

This adult education opportunity will take a close look at the four gospels in parallel to one another with a particular focus on events surrounding the final weeks of Jesus' life. For those who participated in "Reading the Passion Narratives" during Lent, the class will pick up and develop many of the themes examined in that study. However, new participants are absolutely welcome and will have no trouble joining the conversation.

We will rely on Kurt Aland's parallel gospel resource (copies available in class) and use the scriptures themselves as our primary text. There will be a very small amount of outside reading; most reading and discussion will occur on Sunday mornings. You are invited to participate in this challenging and motivating study on the life of Jesus!

We must be ready to learn from one another, not claiming that we alone possess all truth and that somehow we have a corner on God.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Special EASTER OFFERING



The Missions Committee has chosen to focus this year's Easter Offering on serving the hungry and those with special needs.

The missions committee encourages giving acts of kindness as well as monetary donations to:

- ▶ **Flat Rock Homes**, providing services which transform the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- ▶ **The Society of St. Andrew** (the Potato Project), which redirects loads of fresh produce to those in need nationally.
- ▶ **Red Bird Mission**, providing spiritual, educational, health and outreach ministries for people in remote Appalachia.

Our Missions Committee supports giving in local, national and international agencies, when possible supporting projects through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) projects knowing that 100% of funds given are used in supporting those projects.

“And if anyone gives even a cup of water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

- Matthew 10:42



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

Congratulations to Bill Rittman, recently recognized by the City of Brecksville as "Citizen of the Year." If you see Bill, give him a big BUMC "thank you" for all of the ways he serves this community, from his work with the Brecksville Kiwanis and the Empty Bowls fundraiser for hunger, to his work with our church!

~Thank You ~

Thank you everyone for your thoughts and prayers for my shoulder surgery and the recovery that follows. Hope to see you all more often in the Spring!! - *Pat Gordon*

Thank you for all of the thoughts and prayers and cards we received from the church family during Jim's surgery and rehab. It means a lot! - *Jim and Donna Houston*

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

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

THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter.
Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings, Announcements, Upcoming Events and More. To subscribe, e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Beryl Burkle	1-Apr	Matt Nelson	15-Apr
Ernest Gear	1-Apr	Jim Neidinger	16-Apr
Lauren Brinkmann	2-Apr	Janine Telischak	16-Apr
Leanne Davis	2-Apr	Gordon Foerster	18-Apr
Sherry Klodnick	3-Apr	Gail Huth	18-Apr
Julie Kubek	3-Apr	Ken Wise	18-Apr
Lynn Dorman	3-Apr	Stephanie Roberts	19-Apr
Matthew Agnew	4-Apr	Zachary Brachna	20-Apr
Brad Holmok	4-Apr	Judy Burroughs	21-Apr
James Fredrick	5-Apr	Maryanne Salsbury	21-Apr
Lianna Meyer	5-Apr	Marilyn Sewell	21-Apr
Stella McCrodden	6-Apr	Ralph Slifcak	22-Apr
Lily Seifert	7-Apr	John Brachna	25-Apr
Derek Brinkmann	8-Apr	Tate Fowler	25-Apr
Morgan Parker	8-Apr	Ruth Holmes	25-Apr
Dorothy Pliske	8-Apr	Clay Kesling	25-Apr
Doug Holmes	10-Apr	Katie Kiss	25-Apr
Donna Eilbeck	10-Apr	John Prominski	25-Apr
Alan Harper	10-Apr	Chase Boldt	26-Apr
Hannah Johnson	11-Apr	Lilliana BonTempo	26-Apr
Dale Beaver	12-Apr	Sara Louttit	26-Apr
Stacy Parker	12-Apr	Nancy Smith	26-Apr
Carri Kenney	13-Apr	Becky Juniper	27-Apr
Kathy Louttit	13-Apr	Alison Memmer	27-Apr
Alex McMaster	13-Apr	Nancy Kroenke	28-Apr
Payton Schneider	13-Apr	Matt Salsbury	28-Apr
Andrew Fredrick	14-Apr	Nell Taylor	29-Apr
Ed Jones	14-Apr	John Zakarowsky	29-Apr
Jessilyn Mack	14-Apr	Barbara Harper	30-Apr
Addie Magee	14-Apr	Bob Wuerth	30-Apr
Mark Pace	14-Apr		



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. People like Bob Lundholm, who is always so willing to jump in and help when needed, from shoveling snow, to opening and closing the building, or climbing up into the bell tower to change a light bulb. Diane Pidwell whose work has her traveling far from home on a weekly basis, but who still makes time for worship and even jumped in to help with the nursery when Kathy fell ill. Mary Kotnik who gives so freely of her time and helped facilitate the delivery and set up of a new refrigerator for the kitchen. Craig Czarnota who's ministry is so important to this church family—from his work with the caring committee, to coordinating the annual Passover meal experience. Thank you, all!



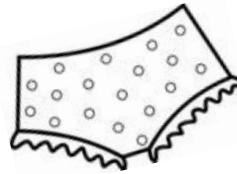
News from the Brecksville United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women to meet April 2.

Come learn about Stepstone Academy, a charter school located in the Cleveland Central neighborhood. Stepstone Academy is affiliated with Ohio Guidestone. Continental breakfast and fellowship begins at 9:30. Everyone is welcome! Hope you'll join us!

Underwear Collection for Girls in Need

During the month of April, UMW is collecting donations of underwear, bras, and socks for the Westside Community House West Side Sisterhood. The items are for girls age 10 to 18. There will be a box in the coat room for your donations, which will be delivered to the girls during the first week of May. Need more info? Contact Gretchen Mates: 440-526-6481. West Side Sister-



hood is an after-school and summer arts program that prepares girls ages 10 - 18 from Cleveland's west side for womanhood. Sisterhood fosters a belief in girls' self-worth based on their skills, unique talents, and spirituality rather than on appearance, popularity, sexuality or negative gender and racial stereotypes, encouraging and challenging young women to be strong and independent, to exercise self-discipline, to respect themselves and one another, to value education, and to know when and how to give help and receive it.

Asbury Bremeth Circle Meets April 9. Asbury Bremeth Circle continues its study of John Wesley. Please join us April 9 in the Parlor for refreshments at 9:30 am and the study to follow. Hope to see you there.



Come Meet Pastor Barb at The Circle!

Our Associate Pastor of Visitation, Rev. Barbara Bartholomew, will be our guest at our next meeting: Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Pastor Barb and learn more about her ministries of caring. Everyone is welcome in the Evening Circle! Our ages range from 16 to 70-something and everywhere in between. Join us!

UMW Missions. Make a date to treat yourself to a tasty meal (or two) at a great local restaurant! Enjoy lunch, dinner, or a takeout from Creekside on Tuesday, April 14. When you present a UMW coupon, a percentage of your check will be donated to the UMW mission fund. Clip the coupon below, or pick one up from The Parlor after church. Coupons are also available on the church website.

ministries OF *Caring*

The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit you or those you may know who can't make it to church regularly, who may be lonely, looking for support, or someone to lend an ear.

Please contact Pastor Barbara so that we can include you with those we visit regularly. Phone: 440-799-3126.

—The Caring Committee

Penny Burns, Craig Czarnota, Lucy Fessler, Aleya Gee, Harry and Ruth Koberna, Ruth McDonel and Janine Telischak.

Creekside

RESTAURANT & BAR

UMW Fundraiser for Missions

Round up a group of friends and eat lunch, dinner or carryout for a good cause — UMW's mission projects!

Where: Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

When: Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Anytime between 11 am and 10 pm

What: Anyone dining at Creekside on Tuesday, April 14 who gives the server this flyer will have 20% of their bill (excluding alcoholic beverages) donated to our Brecksville United Methodist Women. A flyer is necessary for each bill. *Carryout is included!* Menu available at www.creeksiderestaurant.com or call 440-546-0555.

SAVE THE DATE for **G-FORCE** VBS!

Monday July, 13 through
Friday July 17, 2015
9 am - 12 pm each day

2015.cokesburyvbs.com/
brecksvilleumc.com

GET! INVOLVED!

This newsletter has details about a lot of exciting upcoming events, several of them on this page alone! For any of them to be successful, we need people power! If you'd like to get involved—if you have one hour to share or several—please contact the church office!



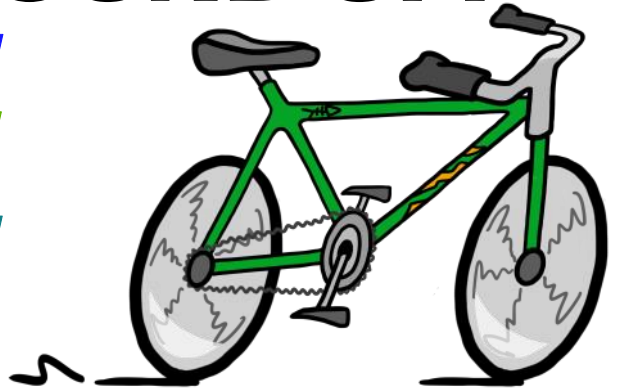
Brent Kirby at BUMC's Fall Fun Day!

Sunday, September 13 at 11 am

Mark your calendars for an exciting fall kick-off event at BUMC on Sunday, September 13. We will have one service at 10:00, followed by a potluck on the square and public performance by local folk singer and guitarist Brent Kirby. This will be an awesome start to the new program year!

BIKE ROUND UP!

MOVE ACT CARE SHARE



Your used bike + elbow grease = LOVE

Movement is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, and the kids are going to be jumping into an exciting mission project. They will be collecting new play equipment (balls, jump ropes, hula hoops and the like) for kids in need in greater Cleveland and they'll be collecting used bicycles, too! Can you help?

- **Bikes Needed!** As you clean out your garage this spring, don't put that old bike out on the tree lawn. Donate it! We will begin collecting bicycles starting May 6. Please place on the stage.
- **Bike Mechanics and Beautifiers Needed!** We want to present these bikes in good condition. Do you have a skill for repairing bicycles, or a handy side you are willing to share? Are you willing to clean or paint a bike or two? We need you!
- **Bike Round Up Captain Needed!** This exciting mission project can really take off with a helping hand to guide it. Can you join the VBS team to oversee the program and encourage the children throughout the week to give with love? We need you!

Questions? Ideas? Suggestions?

Call Jenny: 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

Brecksville United Methodist Church 3rd Annual
Scholarship Golf Outing and Dinner

6.20.2014
SAVE
THE DATE!





Getting to Know You... Question of the Month

What are your hobbies outside of work? 

The Question of the Month is brought to you by the Staff Parish Relations Committee. How well do you know the church staff? Can you guess who gave each answer? Do you share hobbies and interests with anyone on the list?

1. Cooking, gardening, traveling and just generally spending time with my family.
2. My primary hobby is winemaking. We get Cabernet Sauvignon & Merlot grapes and turn them into wine. I also enjoy golfing and working out.
3. Golf, walking and watching baseball.
4. Gardening in my small herb garden and growing tomatoes as well as a variety of herbs, reading, and spending time with our 2 greyhounds.
5. Golfing, reading, cooking, thrift shopping, making stuff, and hanging out with my family and poodle.
6. I LOVE writing and reading for grad school (especially writing) and enjoy editing academic articles; other than that, cooking is my biggest hobby.
7. Reading, exercising, traveling.
8. Cooking, traveling and working out
9. Reading, fishing, listening to music, spending time with family and friends.
10. I play a lot of golf and do a lot of home improvement, I like to garden (keeping the deer away is a big pain), I dog sit and in the slower winter months, I work picture puzzles.
11. Hanging out with friends, watching movies with friends, working out, basketball, golf, and softball.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| A. Pastor Clark Stein | F. Mike Memmer, Business Mgr |
| B. Barbara Bartholomew, Assoc. Pastor | G. Melanie Smith, Office Manager |
| C. Joy Parker, Dir. of Music & Worship | H. Leslie Miller, Asst. Office Mgr |
| D. Jenny Gee, Dir. Christian Education | I. Jeff Hastings, Facility Manager |
| E. Courtney Drescher, Dir. Youth Ministry | J. Scott Hastings, Facility Manager |
| | K. Chris Toth, Organist |

See the answers below. Do you have a suggestion for a future question? Send it to office@brecksvilleumc.com

1. D, 2. I, 3. H, 4. B, 5. G, 6. C, 7. E, 8.K, 9.A, 10.F, 11.J

POTLUCK DINNER



You're Invited!

Potluck Dinner
Saturday, April 18
6 pm in Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share. Plates, napkins and plastic ware will be provided. A fun night of BINGO and prizes! Everyone's welcome. Bring a friend! Don't miss it!

*Brought to you by
The Evangelism
Committee.*

COFFEE TALK

Do you have a child entering kindergarten, 4th or 6th grade in the fall?

Let's talk!

Kindergarten: Thursday, April 30
4th grade: Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm
6th grade: Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 pm

CAPA
community awareness & prevention association

Our church is hosting a series of talks for parents of children transitioning from one school building to another in our school district, the last three Thursdays in April.

Want to learn more? Contact Jenny Gee, 440.526.8938 or visit our website:

[www.brecksvilleumc.com/
admoffice/pdfs/
coffeetalkflyerweb.pdf](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/coffeetalkflyerweb.pdf)



Community Chorus Spring Concert

Sunday, April 19 at 4 pm

The youth chorus is under the direction of Joy Parker, and these 35 young singers have prepared a challenging program that includes French works *La Violette* and *J'entends le Moulin* as well as several uplifting pieces in English. The adult chorus, under the direction of guest conductor Chuck Valley and assisted by Chuck Bentler, will present a complete performance of *Frostiana* by Randall Thompson. This beautiful multi-movement work sets seven well-known Robert Frost poems to original music.

Student Recital and Vocal Concert

Saturday, May 9 at 7:30 pm

We are excited to announce a unique combination concert. In the first half, student musicians of all ages from the congregation will present pieces they have worked on throughout the year. Many of the students have successfully taken these pieces to contest during the spring months. The second half of the concert will feature senior vocal majors from Kent State University presenting a portion of their student recitals. Winners of our 2015 Music Department Scholarship will also be announced at this concert.



Our church family's purpose is to serve the Lord and spread his Good News far and wide. We celebrate God when we commit in meaningful ways to support our church with our pledges, gifts, prayers, presence and participation.

So far for 2015 we have received 156 Pledges, representing \$416,057 pledged. Pledge payments received are slightly ahead of schedule this winter. All praise and glory to God!

Unfortunately, due to member deaths, people moving away, or changed circumstances, compared to 2013 and 2014 we have lost pledged and non-pledged giving in an annualized amount of almost \$75,000 per year.

Although Finance Committee presented a balanced 2015 budget to Administrative Board in January, we only got there by severely cutting back almost every committee. The 2015 budget fully supports our outstanding church staff's salaries, because we need their faithful and energized commitment to help us all through our tight financial times. But our staff and committee resources have been drastically restricted.

In light of the very restricted 2015 Budget, please respond faithfully when our staff and committees make special donation appeals for specific projects or needs. It may be the only way those ministry needs can be met.

We also ask that you do everything you can to continue your timely pledge payments, and consider shifting your payment method to using the electronic giving option. Please call Melanie in the church office (440-526-8938) if you need assistance in converting your contributions to electronic payments.

Finance Committee carefully monitors our BUMC finances every month. We will regularly update you on how BUMC is doing financially.

You are vital to BUMC! Without your faithful support, none of our church ministries can happen. Thank you! - *Alan Schenfler, Chairperson, Finance Committee*

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Need Help with Realm?

If you're interested in using Realm, our church's new online communication tool, there's a short tutorial video that can help get you started. youtu.be/3TR0OEEAa2c

With Realm, you can:

- Update your contact information
- Join groups or classes
- Give online
- View your giving history
- Communicate with your church family!

Need help? Contact the church office! 440-526-8938

YOUTH NEWS



SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:30 AM - 1 PM



shop ethically

Experience,
discover and
learn! Unique gift
items, food and
clothing produced
by artisans around
the world.



High School Youth News

Sunday School – With the completion of our Lenten study, *Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus*, we'll begin our last study of the year! We'll be focusing on some very real stuff – alcohol, relationships, mental health, beauty, and lust. What does our Christian tradition and the Bible have to say about these tough topics? Join us for some honest discussion before we break for the summer!

Youth Group – We'll continue to meet throughout April, with the exception of Easter Sunday, on Sunday evenings from 7-9 pm in the Youth Room. During these times together, we'll continue to strengthen our honest, authentic community with one another, and explore a variety of topics through great discussion. As always, all ninth through twelfth graders and friends are welcome!

Youth Annual Conference, June 12-14 – Calling all teens! This year's YAC will be from June 12-14 at Lakeside. We have a limited number of spots available for this incredible weekend of faith-building, worship, leadership development, and fellowship. Cost is \$60 per participant, and includes your registration, food, lodging, and a t-shirt. Call or email Courtney today to reserve your place for this awesome weekend!

Youth Service Project, July 19-25 – YSP participants, don't forget the remainder of your payment is due April 12! Still interested and haven't yet signed up? We have a few spots left, so email Courtney today for more information or to reserve your spot at youth@brecksvilleumc.com!

YSP Plant Sale—[Order forms](#) are included in this issue of *The Good Word*. Plants will be delivered Saturday, May 9 from 10 am until noon—in time for Mother's Day!

Middle School Youth News

Youth Group – Don't miss our weekly time together, Wednesday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm! We'll continue to walk through the Bible stories with our hands-on sketch books, and explore just what was meant by these stories. As the weather continues to warm up, we'll plan on spending some time outside as well! We will NOT meet during spring break, on April 8. Enjoy your vacation!

Confirmation Church Visit – Save the date for our third and final church visit of the year - April 22! Look for more information to follow via email.

THANK YOU!

Thank you again to everyone who helped with or attended this year's Music with a Mission! We were able to raise over \$3,000 to support this year's Youth Service Project, which will take us to the tiny Appalachian town of Pocahontas, VA, this July. A special thanks to Joy Parker for coordinating the wonderful show, Mary Kotnik for all of her work and leadership in the kitchen, and Michelle Shively for organizing our silent auction! The support of this ministry is truly humbling and an incredible blessing.

IMPORTANT DATES

for April and beyond

April 5 – No HS Youth Group

April 8 – No MS Youth Group

April 19 – Confirmation

Church Visit

May 9 - YSP Plant Sale Pick Up

May 17 – Confirmation Sunday

June 12-14 – YAC at Lakeside

July 13-17 – VBS

July 19-25 – YSP Trip to Virginia

APRIL 2015

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Communion Stewards Diane Pidwell and Jack Drescher</p>	 <p>HOLY WEEK</p>		<p>1 6:30 Dwnbrkrs 6:30 Labyrinth 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:15 Infant Loss Support Group 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2 Holy Thursday 8:30 Labyrinth 9:30 UMW</p> 	<p>3 Good Friday 8:30 Labyrinth</p>  <p>Tenebrae Service 7:30 Tenebrae Service</p>	<p>4 Holy Saturday 8:30 Women's Small Group 8:30 Labyrinth (open until noon) 9:30 Zumba</p>
<p>5 Easter Sunday 6:45 Sunrise Service 8:45 Worship 11:15 Worship</p>  <p>EASTER</p>	<p>6 Easter Monday Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>7 10 Staff Meeting 7 Evangelism 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>8 6:30 Dwnbrkrs 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 7 Eve Circle. Come meet Pastor Barbara!</p>	<p>10 7 Emmaus Reunion</p>	<p>11 8:30 Women's Small Group 9:30 Zumba</p>
BBHCS SPRING BREAK						
<p>12 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 12:15 Music & Worship Board 7 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>13 5:30 Kickboxing</p>	<p>14 <i>Creekside Fund-raiser for UMW Missions</i> 11 Staff Meeting 7 Administrative Board Meeting No Zumba</p>	<p>15 6:30 Dwnbrkrs 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:15 Infant Loss Support Group 7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 7 BBHCSD Coffee Talk</p> 	<p>17 7 Emmaus Reunion</p> <p>UMW Delivery to Brookside Food Pantry</p> 	<p>18 8:30 Women's Small Group 9:30 Zumba 6 Church Potluck</p> 
<p>19 Native American Ministries Sun. 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 4 Community Chorus Spring Concert 7 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>20 5:30 Kickboxing 7 SPRC</p>	<p>21 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time Knitting Group 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>22 6:30 Dwnbrkrs 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir 8:15 Men's Ensemble</p>	<p>23 7 BBHCSD Coffee Talk</p>	<p>24 7 Emmaus Reunion 9:30 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p>25 <i>World Malaria Day</i> 8:30 Women's Small Group 9:30 Zumba</p> <p>Fair Trade Fair Set Up</p>
<p>26 8:30 am — 1 pm Fair Trade Fair 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 7 HS Youth Grp</p>	<p>27 5:30 Kickboxing</p>	<p>28 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance 7:30 Zumba</p>	<p>29 6:30 Dwnbrkrs 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bell Choir 7:15 Infant Loss Support Group 7:30 Chancel Choir 8:15 Men's Ensemble</p>	<p>30 7 BBHCSD Coffee Talk</p> 		

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Youth Service Project  PLANT SALE – 2015

Don't forget Mother's Day! Orders will arrive in time for Mom!

ALL FLATS \$16.00 EACH; GERANIUM POTS AND HERB POTS \$4.00 EACH

AGERATUM ____ Blue	LOBELIA ____ Royal Blue	Again This Year
ALYSSUM Partial Sun ____ White _____ Purple ____ Pink	MARIGOLD DWARF (Ht. 8-10") ____ Yellow _____ Orange	
ASTER ____ Dwarf Mix	NICOTIANA ____ Mix	____ Basil
BEGONIA Green Foliage/Partial Sun ____ Red _____ White ____ Pink	PANSY ____ Mix	____ Rosemary
BEGONIA Bronze Foliage/Partial Sun ____ Red _____ White ____ Pink	PETUNIA ____ White _____ Pink ____ Yellow _____ Lilac ____ Mix	____ Oregano
COLEUS ____ Wizard Mix	PORTULACA ____ Double Mix	____ Italian Parsley
COSMOS ____ Sonata Mix	SALVIA ____ Dwarf Red	____ Dill
DAHLIA ____ Double Mix	SNAPDRAGONS ____ Short Mix (Ht. 8-8") ____ Medium Mix (Ht. 12-14")	____ Mint
DIANTHUS ____ Mix _____ Pink	VERBENA ____ Mix	____ Thyme
DUSTY MILLER ____ Silverdust	VIOLA ____ Mixed	____ Lavender
GAZANIA ____ Dwarf Mix	ZINNIA (*24 PLANTS) ____ Dwarf Mix (Ht. 10") ____ Medium Mix (Ht. 15-20") ____ Tall Mix (Ht. 24-30")	____ Cilantro
HYPOESTES (Polka Dot) ____ Pink _____ White		____ Curly Parsley
IMPATIENS Partial Sun ____ Red _____ White ____ Pink _____ Salmon ____ Cranberry (Burgundy) ____ Mix ____ Pastel Mix ____ Blue Pearl (Lavender)		____ Sage
		____ Citronella (Lemon-Scented)
		GERANIUM ~ 4" pots \$4.00 each
		____ Red
		____ White
		____ Pink
		____ Salmon
		____ Rose (Dark Pink)
		____ Hollywood Star
		(Bi color Red & White)
		____ Deep Violet

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR HANGING BASKETS AND TO COMPLETE ORDER FORM.

ALL FLATS (except Zinnias)
36 plants per flat

____ TOTAL FLATS @ \$16.00 EACH = \$ _____
____ TOTAL HERB POTS @ \$4.00 EACH = \$ _____
____ TOTAL GERANIUM POTS @ \$4.00 EACH = \$ _____

[Click here](#)

to open a copy of the
YSP Plant Sale Order Form!

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

PRAYERS

Consider adding the following to your prayer list...

- ▶ The ministries of our church. Pray that the Spirit will move us forward in powerful ways!
- ▶ Our church's Caring Committee. Pray for them as they move throughout our community and give care, compassion and solace to those who need it.
- ▶ After this year's long, snowy, cold winter, say a prayer of thanks for spring. Send up a prayer for each neighbor as you see them emerging from a winter spent indoors.
- ▶ Pray for peace.
- ▶ Pray for those who are suffering, named and unnamed, that they may feel the loving arms of God around them.

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

PRESENCE

Date	First Service	Education Hour	Second Service	Goal of 300
Mar. 1	94	118	97	-109
Mar. 8	107	93	144	-49
Mar. 15	119	94	134	-47
Mar. 22	143		73	-84

We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We fell short of this goal again this month. What's keeping you from church on Sunday? What are some other ways you can be present in the life of the church this month?

GIFTS

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

Date	Offering
Mar. 1	\$8,675
Mar. 8	\$14,974
Mar. 15	\$9,237
Mar. 22	\$18,741

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

SERVICE

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

- ▶ Be part of the Bike Round up this summer! Donate a used bike, or help spruce up the donated bikes for kids in need.
- ▶ Join the VBS team. There are so many ways to help!
- ▶ Contribute to the West Side Sisterhood underwear drive.
- ▶ Be a part of the Fall Fun Day festivities. Planning starts now! Join the team!
- ▶ Learn about ways you can help the three organizations chosen to receive our Easter Offering this year: Red Bird Mission, Flat Rock Homes, and the Society of St. Andrews.

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

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

United Methodist News

NPR Host and Pastors Join Seminary's Conversation on Race *From Wesley Theological Seminary: www.wesleyseminary.edu*

On March 17, Wesley's new Institute for Community Engagement at Wesley Downtown hosted a conversation on the racial divide in America. Doug Powe, director of ICE's Urban Ministry Program, professor of urban ministry and a panelist said, "Many of us in the church like the Galatians 3:28 text that reads, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.' Yet in practice we do not live out a unity in the body of Christ. This panel discussion brings us face to face with the reality of our claims versus our practices."

Panelists weighed in on questions about the church, race and their individual participation in the conversation. They are Michel Martin, NPR host and Wesley student; the Rev. Rachel Cornwell, lead pastor of Silver Spring United Methodist Church; and the Rev. Tom Berlin, Senior Pastor of Floris United Methodist Church.

"If it's in the news and it concerns people, the church should have something to say about it—whatever 'it' is—especially people who are or will be in leadership," said Martin. "All we need to do is open any newspaper or turn on the news or open any news website, and we can see that conflicts rooted in racial difference are still very much with us, whether we like it or not."

"It is a conversation that we needed to have had for a long time," Cornwell explained, "But the events in Ferguson, Missouri last summer and fall, the death of Eric Garner in Staten Island, the release of the Ferguson report this month, have made us look again at the work we need to do in this country to confront racism, and work toward justice and reconciliation."

"My background [is] in covering issues of race, religion and ethnicity throughout my career," said Martin. "We can actually have conversations around these issues that can be difficult and emotional for some."

Cornwell said she agreed to be part of the conversation for a few reasons. "First, because as a white person, it's far too easy to avoid conversations about race—that's part of white privilege. But the work of dismantling racism is as much my responsibility as anyone else's. Second, because racism is still a problem for the church, I believe we need to begin at home to address our systemic racism and prejudicial attitudes before we can go out and try to change the world.

"And last, I have been blessed to serve a multi-racial congregation, Silver Spring United Methodist Church, the past nine years. And this church has taught me a lot about what it means to be part of a diverse community, to be in relationship with people of many different backgrounds and to work together for justice and reconciliation," she continued. "I wanted to share some of what I have learned and experienced in a way that may be helpful to others."

Reflecting on Powe's comment about "the reality of our claims versus our practices," Berlin observed, "We have a long way to go before our congregations will look like the local elementary school. But when a church decides to enter the process of becoming diverse to honor Christ, all things are possible."

"Like many institutions, our mission is aspirational, while in practice we don't always live up to who we should, or even hope to be," said Cornwell. "But as people of faith, and specifically as Methodists, we believe in sanctifying grace, which calls us to both personal and social holiness. Have we, in the church, always lived up to Paul's vision of the church as a place where all are one in Christ Jesus? No. Should we keep trying to live into that vision? Absolutely."

"A conversation is a starting point in a longer process of consideration that leads to changes in our church and the call for greater community in our localities," Berlin said. "Before Christians take action we are wise to listen to others, and discern the will of the Spirit for our lives."

"I think dialogue is part of the on-going process of reconciliation," Cornwell said. "It goes alongside the deliberate steps we take toward justice. For example, as changes are made in the city leadership in Ferguson, we still need dialogue to open spaces for understanding and healing."

"Dialogue is not enough by itself, but it is an essential part of the process. And the work of reconciliation is not necessarily linear," she cautioned. "We sometimes take steps forward, and then backward. We circle back to places we have been before with new perspectives. It's sort of like other kinds of grief work, I believe. It's not always a clear, straight path."

"Faith communities are like families; they have many things in common but they are all different," commented Martin, thinking about how faith communities can move forward. "I hope one thing that might occur is that faith leaders understand they have a stake in this, that they are able.

"When I hosted a daily program on NPR, I found faith leaders, even those from very different traditions and backgrounds, often had some of the best conversations. This was contrary to some people's stereotypes of faith leaders as all about their own worldview and oblivious or hostile to other people's," says Martin. "They were often very good listeners and very good at getting to someplace real in a hurry. I hope [we] will be an example to other people on how to talk with each other and not just at each other."

During the panel, Martin asked, "how can law enforcement move from 'containing' community, to being a part of the community?"

"I think one of the biggest barriers to racial reconciliation in the church is being able to speak and hear the truth spoken in love," said Cornwell. "So I hope this discussion is a deep and holy conversation, where we uncover some of the roots of racism in our society, in our church and in ourselves."

Cornwell also hopes the panel discussion is a model of what an honest, convicting and transforming dialogue can look like. "[I pray it was] one more faithful step in our journey toward racial reconciliation and will inspire others to have similar conversations, to speak, to listen and to respond," she says.

"You have to be both prophetic and pastoral simultaneously," said Cornwell. "We're very good at naming certain sins. We need to be better at naming them all."

◊

A free download of a video of the panel will be available mid-April. Church members can use it to continue the discussion on their own or to search for particular topics covered. To access the download, email theinstitute@wesleyseminary.edu.