



## Honoring Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ

### *A Word on World Communion Sunday*

As many of you are aware, I recently had the opportunity to do a little European travel. While abroad, I was reminded once again of the power of language. There is no more helpless feeling than being in a place where you speak little (or none) of the language, identifying something that you need or want, and realizing that you are completely unable to connect with whomever might be able to fulfill your request! At its heart, language has the power to connect us to others; lack of common language leaves us disconnected. I thought many times during the trip what a gift it was that so many people had undertaken to learn and speak fluent English, so that they could welcome travelers into their home country, show us around, and meet our needs. It is a similar spirit of welcome and connection that guides us on World Communion Sunday.

One of the questions I am asked most frequently is why we sing in other languages or incorporate multi-lingual readings in worship. Obviously it's a challenge, whether one is the speaker/singer or a member of the congregation working to understand and appreciate a reading or piece of music in another language; and it can feel confusing and unrewarding. It is valuable, though, to consider the feeling of being a visitor in a foreign land. We are blessed, as English speakers, in that we find many helpfully translated materials and aids as we travel the world. But what a breath of fresh air and a blessing it might be for someone in our midst or a visitor to hear words of their native tongue in our community. That is the practical explanation.

But there is another, deeper, explanation that is far more important. Our relatively tiny labor to articulate a word, a prayer, or a song in another language is an act of honor. It honors our brother and sisters in Christ around the world, and it connects us to them. A South African song honors the people of that nation, even as it binds us to them in the act of worship. A prayer spoken in Spanish honors the people of that nation, even as it connects us to that community of faith. A reading undertaken in one of many Native American languages honors that community, even as it connects us to the richness of their faith traditions. May we have the vision of Christ and truly see how we are blessed by more fully entering into, and experiencing, the height, breadth and depth of the community of God.

Happy World Communion Sunday! ~Joy (Fenton) Parker, Director of Music





8:45 Contemporary Worship  
 10 Education Hour  
 11:15 Traditional Worship



# Go Team!

*Comments from Rev. Clark Stein*

**“A fanatic is someone who can’t change his mind, and won’t change the subject.”**

-Winston Churchill

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Football season is in full swing once again. I always love to watch the games, but I also really enjoy watching how the “fanatics” get involved in the whole process. The tailgaters arrive hours before the game, displaying their loyalty by painting their cars and their bodies, wearing the appropriate jerseys, breaking out the pre-game beverages and banquets, and whooping it up. The energy begins to build and - if the home team is lucky - spills into the stands in anticipation of the game. I have watched momentum swings in contests that are very close. No one will easily convince me that the “home crowd” is not a significant advantage. When people so openly display their devotion, their love for the game, and their team it unites them in ways that nothing else can. That is what “team spirit” is all about.



It seems to me that we have been carried away in this place by a similar team spirit. Look around you, the Spirit is moving folks to get involved in the life of the church in some awesome and powerful ways. We are beginning a journey together that involves vision and mission and purpose. I am getting pumped up by the stories I hear, by the witness of those on our team who have decided to get involved beyond these walls. The world is literally changing as more of the kingdom becomes flesh and blood when we lend our hearts and hands to creating pockets of love and grace. We should be tailgating before worship.

All of the college and pro teams with significant fan bases have fun and enjoy the fellowship of their shared passion of game and team. I have come to know Brecksville UMC as a church on fire for Jesus. We are God’s fanatics, who can’t change our mind and won’t change the subject. Thanks for being who you are. I am happy to be one of your pastors.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Clark*

### Old Stamps = Tools!

The UMW collects cancelled postage stamps (except any \$.44 including the Forever stamp and \$.28 postcard stamp) for National Church Women United. The stamps help “Tools for Hope” an effort to provide tools in developing countries around the world. Bring your stamps to the box in the cloak room.



### Fellowship Hour Hosts

**October:** UMW

**November:**  
Staff Parish Relations

**December:** Education

# I Am The Bread of Life...



## Breads Around the World

*“We come now to your table Lord,  
You are the Living Bread.*

*We come now to your table Lord,  
Let every soul be fed.”*

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. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, why not take some time to learn about other cultures by baking some bread? Below are some recipes to get you started. More can be found online at: [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

### The Caribbean

#### Pan de Nueces Y Piña (Pineapple Nut Bread)

- 2 eggs
  - 1/3 cup sugar
  - 2 cups flour
  - 1 Tbl. Baking Powder
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 cup nuts (crushed)
  - 1 cup crushed pineapple (canned, including juice)
1. Beat eggs and slowly add sugar until well blended and add melted butter.
  2. Sift together flour, salt and baking powder and add to mix.
  3. Add crushed nuts and pineapple with juice. Add only enough so that all is combined.
  4. Grease a 4 x 8 inch bread pan. Pour batter into pan and bake at 350 degrees for one hour and 10 minutes.

### China

#### Chinese Almond Bread

- 1/2 cup butter
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 2 eggs, beaten
  - 2 teaspoons baking powder
  - 1/2 teaspoon almond flavor
  - 1/2 cup coarsely chopped toasted almonds
  - 2 cups rice flour
- Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add eggs and continue to beat until the mixture is creamy. Add baking powder, almond flavor and nuts. Work in flour and form into a soft dough. Turn into a well-greased and lightly floured 8 x 4 x 2 1/2 loaf pan. Decorate top with split almonds, if desired. Bake at 350 degrees until a golden brown, and the loaf tests done. Cool well before slicing.

### India

#### Chapati (Indian Flat Bread)

- Combine:
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
  - 1 teaspoon margarine or butter, melted
  - Pinch of salt
- Gradually add:
- 1/2 cup (or more) lukewarm water
- Knead until dough is soft. Cover with damp cloth and let rest one hour. Divide dough into 10 pieces. On floured surface, roll each piece into a 4 inch circle, 1/4 inch thick. Heat heavy ungreased frypan. Cook each Chapati until it starts to bubble on the bottom. Turn, fry other side, and remove. Stack in a tea towel to keep warm.

*Options: Substitute white flour for half of the wheat flour. After turning chapatti, rub with a few drops of oil. When the second side is finished, turn over again and cook briefly on the first side. Rub oil on second side and fry briefly.*

### Chili

#### Pan Amusado

- About 2 3/4 cups of flour (400 grams)
  - 1 package yeast
  - 1 teaspoon sugar
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 2 Tablespoons melted butter
- Dissolve yeast in 1/4 cup warm water with 1 teaspoon sugar. Mix flour and salt in a large bowl; make a well in the flour. Into the well, pour other ingredients and mix to form a soft dough. Cover and let rise in a warm place for 2 1/2 to 3 hours, or until light and double in bulk. Knead lightly on a floured board. Shape into a loaf and place in a greased bread pan. Prick the top with a fork in several places. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 60 minutes. For a lighter texture, let rise in the pan for about a half hour before baking.



# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

If you're a Facebook Fan of Brecksville Youth, your mouth has probably watered as you look at the beautiful photos of **Kyle and In Hye Allen's** Wednesday culinary creations for Youth Worship dinners. Want to see the pictures? Log onto: [www.facebook.com/brecksvillyouth](http://www.facebook.com/brecksvillyouth)

Our first **Pizza with the Pastor** brought in a good crowd, with over 40 people gathering to enjoy lunch with Pastor Clark after second service. Pastor Clark wants to make it a monthly occasion, and hopes you'll mark your calendar for the next Pizza with the Pastor, October 14!

The love you shared with **Ann & Bill Rittman** after Ann's recent accident has helped on Ann's road to recovery, and she has asked us to extend her thanks for all of your cards and calls. She's getting better every day!

**Kyle and In Hye Allen** are celebrating their wedding on Saturday, October 6. Martin Luther said "There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage." We wish you a good marriage and much happiness, Kyle and In Hye!



### As You Pray This Month Consider

Our Third Graders, as they receive their Bibles September 30.

~  
Charge Conference, October 28

~  
Those who are home bound

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Melissa	AuWerter	10/01	Robert	Suazo	10/15
Loretta	Stratis	10/02	Karen	Thielman	10/15
Donald	Butler	10/03	Marilyn	DeMoor	10/16
Lois	Giesel	10/03	Lucy	Shijo	10/16
Cynthia	Hubert	10/04	Cathy	Walden	10/16
Alexander	Vastartis	10/04	Megan	Culley	10/18
Patricia	Butler	10/05	Carly	Kubek	10/18
Marcia	Cline	10/05	M.	Kuntz	10/18
Charles	Hayes	10/05	Andy	Batcheller	10/20
Edward	Hayes	10/05	Caleb	Stein	10/20
Robin	Raybuck	10/05	Johanna	Bondra	10/21
Richard	Burroughs	10/06	Mark	Hubert	10/21
Madison	Hart	10/06	Daniel	Hurder	10/21
Everett	McDonel	10/06	John	Klipfell	10/21
Kay	AuWerter	10/07	Hazel	Gear	10/22
Herbert	Einheit	10/07	Garth	Olszko	10/22
Bailey	Archacki	10/08	Olivia	Klipfell	10/23
Michael	Jaszczak	10/09	Sara	Kwiatkowski	10/24
Cecilia	Podolny	10/09	Emily	Shijo	10/24
Mark	Spencer	10/09	Geraldine	Beaver	10/26
Lauren	Chenney	10/10	Gretchen	Mates	10/26
Matthew	Sendrey	10/10	W.	McLuckie	10/26
Dick	Hayes	10/11	Chris	Nguyen	10/26
Kristine	Hollo	10/11	Nathan	Rosenthal	10/26
Jane	Petrie	10/11	Arthur	Wise	10/26
Nicholas	Telischak	10/11	Beverly	Dubin	10/27
Julianna	Tait	10/12	Bethany	Hogan	10/28
Thelma	Loeffler	10/13	Dean	Rybak	10/28
Ryan	Rybak	10/13	Jason	Bell	10/29
Lawry	Kardos	10/14	Brittany	Hotaling	10/29
Michelle	Blatnik	10/15	Ben	Magistro	10/29
Josh	Kwiatkowski	10/15	Anet	Smith	10/29
Thuy Ai	Nguyen	10/15	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: Look around BUMC and you may see **Gretchen Mates** helping with our pictorial directory plans, **Sarah Lundholm** enhancing our worship with beautiful music, **The Rybak Family** opening their home for the Young Disciple's Picnic, and **Ric Lesinski** leading the **Men's Ensemble** as they create inspiring music for our worship services.

# Pick It Up and Read It

What is your faith story? Do you ever struggle to understand God or your relationship to God? What is your view on the Bible and Bible reading? Have you ever opened to a particular passage that you felt was hand chosen for you to read?

Great theologians throughout history have struggled with their faith. John Wesley was in spiritual crisis when he had his “Aldersgate experience.” Martin Luther was so conflicted that he said struggling with faith was “dreadful, but necessary.” Augustine experienced much pain and suffering as he earnestly searched for the truth. Do you know Augustine’s story?

Augustine of Hippo (November 13, 354 – August 28, 430) was the bishop of Hippo Regius. He was a Latin philosopher and theologian and is considered to be one of the greatest Christian thinkers of all time. His writings have been influential in the development of Western Christianity. But he did not arrive at all of this without great difficulty.



Augustine wrestled with his faith throughout his youth and young adulthood. He always believed in God but struggled trying to understand God’s nature. He was surrounded by friends who were becoming more committed to their faith, which frustrated him. He famously prayed to God to “Grant me chastity and continence, but not yet.” Augustine felt as if he had two identities battling within him; one that yearned to grow in relationship with God, and the other that desired secular ambition and pleasures. As time passed he began to feel “left behind” by those who were growing more and more dedicated to their faith. His mother, Monica, was a strong woman of faith and prayed daily that Augustine would find his way. Augustine was surrounded by people who helped to nudge him toward God.

In his autobiography, *Confessions*, Augustine explains that one afternoon he had an emotional breakdown in a garden. He threw himself to the ground under a fig tree and prayed that he could “Make the leap without anxiety.” Augustine was overcome, and went to a bench to weep. From a neighboring house he heard a child’s voice chanting “Pick it up and read.” After searching for the

child and not finding anyone anywhere, he realized that he had heard a message from God. He picked up the Bible, randomly opened it to Romans 13:13-14 and read: “Not in riots and drunken parties, not in eroticism and indecencies, not in strife and rivalry, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in its lusts.”

With this, all of Augustine's doubts were expelled, and he felt deeply connected to God. He told his friend Alypius (who was also struggling along his faith journey) the good news, and Alypius opened his Bible to read Romans 14:1 “Receive the person

who is weak in faith.” Alypius applied this to himself and felt that deep connection too.

For so many years Augustine sought to discover the truth about God and the universe, but always had a deep inner desire for faith. It could be said that Augustine had no intention of doing anything halfway when it came to

God. He was 31 years old when he had this experience in the garden. Years of thought and prayer and contemplation built up to this moment for him.

Augustine believed that the grace of Christ was indispensable to human freedom. He is a saint in the Catholic Church. Among Protestants, his teaching on salvation and divine grace have established him as one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation. Augustine's mother was persistent in prayer! She prayed every day that he would come to love God, but it was many years before her prayers were answered. What have you been persistent in praying for?

Augustine's mother shared her faith with him. His friend Alypius shared his struggles. Who are the people in your life who help you along your faith journey?

Bible passages have the ability to comfort us, empower us or humble us. Please pray for the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who received their Bibles on September 30. Pray that they become familiar with the powerful words within. - Jenny Gee, Director of Education

# Tailgate PARTY



**SUNDAY, October 21  
12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall**

Think music and football don't mix? Think again! Join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Music Department Tailgate Party**, on **Sunday, October 21 @ 12:30**, co-sponsored by Worship Committee. We will gather in **Fellowship Hall** to watch the **Cleveland Browns kick-off against the Indianapolis Colts at 1:00**. Hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be on sale, as well as snowcones, popcorn, cotton candy and beverages! We will have the game on the big screen (and on smaller screens at the concession areas); it will be just like being at Browns Stadium!!

Grab your stadium chairs, bring the whole family, invite a couple of friends, and come support the Music Program!! (Any funds raised from food sales will be used to close the small gap in our Organ Renovation Project.)

Childcare will be provided for children up through age 4; we will also have movie options available for elementary-aged kids. **Hope to see you October 21. Go Browns!!**



Do you like to sing? Then our **Children's Chorus** is for you! Open to all children, up through 8th grade, who love to sing! We are working to determine a day and time that works for everyone. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Joy Parker.

440-526-8938

music@brecksvilleumc.com



United Methodist Women

## Join us Thursday, October 4

The Thursday, October 4 BUMW meeting's program will feature Officer John Crispulos who is the Brecksville DARE officer. Learn the ways that the

DARE programs and the local schools work together to educate the children about the dangers of drugs. Meeting starts at 9:30 am with a continental breakfast. Hope to see you there!

## Church Women's Day

Church Women United will celebrate Church Women's Day On Friday, October 5 at The Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church, 3435 Fairmount Blvd, Cleveland Heights (approximately at the corner of Fairmount Blvd and South Taylor Road) at 9 am. Please call Nancy at 440-838-4341 if you would like more information.

## Clip for Kids!



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

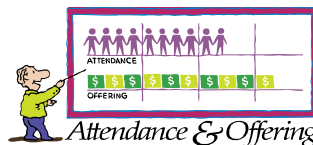


Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, which is a United Methodist Church within the Red Bird Missionary Conference, expressed their appreciation to BUMW for the donation of Campbell UPCs and General Mills Box-tops. The Appalachia church uses them to purchase various needed items. By collecting the Campbell UPCs and General Mills Box-tops, we are able to help other people in need a very easy way. There are label collection bins in the coatroom. Thank you for your support and hope that you will continue to help BUMW with this mission.

## Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange



Marisol Wylie has a terrific idea—a Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange! The colder months are prime jigsaw puzzle time, so we've set up a "bring one/take one" shelf in the Chapel. Bring a jigsaw puzzle you no longer want and take one left there by another puzzler. Isn't that a great idea? Happy puzzling!



Can we make our numbers grow? Why not bring a friend to church or Sunday School?

Date	1st Service Attendance	Sunday School	2nd Service Attendance	Offering
August 26	84	n/a	120	\$9825
September 2	83	n/a	105	\$9753
September 9	117	141	118	\$9676
September 16	126	125	82	\$7532
September 23	130	151	107	\$9702

# Children Will Lead Worship Oct. 21



Children's Worship March, 2010

Children's Worship Sunday will be celebrated on October 21 this year at both services. Our young students in first through fifth grades will lead the congregation in praise, preaching and prayer! The children have been learning the Parables of Jesus and will enjoy sharing with you what they have learned and how they are applying their understanding of Jesus' message in their lives each day.

Each year the congregation enjoys seeing this younger generation share their understanding of God and the stories of their faith. The children appreciate the warm acceptance of their church family as they take their first steps toward being the worship leaders of tomorrow. Please note that there will not be any Sprouts program during the Children's Worship Sunday.

# Charge Conference: Oct. 28

Members of Brecksville United Methodist Church are encouraged to attend a combined charge conference at Seven Hills UMC on Sunday, October 28 at 5 pm. Our church, Seven Hills UMC, Independence UMC, and North Royalton UMC will participate.

The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council and must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry. We hope you will add your voice to the process!

# Fall Clean Up: Oct. 6 & Nov. 3

On Saturday, October 6 from 8 am until 11 am we'll trim some trees and clean up the flower beds. On Saturday, November 3, again from 8 am until 11 am, we'll focus on raking leaves. Bring your gardening tools—rakes, gloves, etc. and come help! We are all caretakers of our church! For more information, contact Mary Kotnik: 330-256-3262 or [mekotnik@yahoo.com](mailto:mekotnik@yahoo.com)



## The Abbey of Genesee

November 2 - 4



A weekend at the monastery. Interested in learning more? Talk to Craig Czarnota or Kendall Lancaster or check out the Abbey Website at [www.geneseeabbey.org](http://www.geneseeabbey.org).

Call the church office to be put on the reservation list (440) 526-8938. Suggested donation to the Abbey is \$50 per person – this includes two nights private room and all meals.



# Are You Registered?

To vote in the November 6 election, you must be registered under your current name and address by Tuesday, October 9. US Citizens who will be age 18 or older by Election Day and who will have been legal residents of Ohio for at least 30 days are eligible to vote. Uncertain about your status? Check with your county board of elections or at the state website: [Sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/register.aspx](http://Sos.state.oh.us/SOS/elections/Voters/register.aspx) You can register through the website or through most government agencies, such as the public library or municipal offices. Remember, Oct. 9 is the last day to register!



## This Month's Hike Sunday, Oct. 7











2 pm. Get out your hiking stick and put on your boots!

We'll meet at Kendall Lake shelter in the CVNP, off of Kendall Park Road/Truxell Road, south of Peninsula. Our hike will take us about 4.3 miles through beautiful scenery and lovely fall colors. 2 pm. Oct. 7. The Salt Run Trail is rated moderate to difficult. If anyone would like to take a turn planning and leading hikes for 2013, please contact Carole Brachna for details! 330-908-2031





# OCTOBER 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>Communion Stewards</p> <p>Bob and Joan Bloch</p>	1 7 Bible Study	2 11 Staff Mtg 7 Knitting Grp	3 7a Dawnbrkrs  No Youth Worship Today	4 9:30 UMW 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7 Men's Ensem 7:30 Choir	5 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study	6 8-11 Church Yard Clean Up! 
7 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hr <b>11:15 Worship</b> 2 Hiking Club 	8 7 Bible Study	9 11 Staff Mtg 7 Ad Board 8 "Super Tuesday" Committee Meetings	10 7a Dawnbrkrs 5:30 p Youth Worship	11 9:30 Asbury B. 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7 Men's Ensem 7:30 Choir	12 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study	13 1 Wedding 6 Chapel Service at Chipewa Place 
14 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hr <b>11:15 Worship</b> 12 Pizza with the Pastor! 	15 7 Bible Study	16 9:30 Staff Mtg 10 Stich'n'Time 7 Knitting Grp 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees	17 7a Dawnbrkrs 5:30 p Youth Worship 7 Staff Parish Relations	18 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7 Men's Ensem 7:30 Choir	19 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study 	20
21 <b>Children's Worship Sunday</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hr <b>11:15 Worship</b> 1 Tailgate Party 	22 7 Bible Study	23 9:30 Staff Mtg	24 7a Dawnbrkrs 5:30 p Youth Worship 7 pm <b>Liberia Presentation</b> in the Parlor. Details coming soon!	25 4 Wo. Emmaus 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7 Men's Ensem 7:30 Choir	26 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study  The Good Word is mailed! 	27 <i>Know someone who would enjoy The Good Word? Send them a copy!</i>
28 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hr <b>11:15 Worship</b> 5 Charge Conference 	29 7 Bible Study	30	31 7a Dawnbrkrs 5:30 p Youth Worship	<b>\$1 Week Campaign</b>  <p>As of Sept. 24, we have collected <b>\$4,629</b> for our Liberia School building fund. Our goal is \$24,000.</p>		

**This Month's Scripture Focus:** Find this month's scriptures on the home page of the church website: [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

# United Methodist News

*“News in the Pews” from the United Methodist News Service*

## **‘Strength for Service’ gets new life**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The agency responsible for ministries to and with United Methodist Men units is creating a new organization, Strength for Service, which will continue the publication of a World War II book of daily devotions and publish and distribute a new book of daily devotions for community-service employees and volunteers. To learn more, visit [www.strengthforservice.org](http://www.strengthforservice.org).

## **How accessible is your church?**

SALEM, Ore. — If a person who uses a wheelchair arrives at your church, what sort of welcome will that visitor find? The United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries has just released a new disabilities audit that can help your congregation assess strengths and weaknesses as it strives to welcome people of all abilities. Visit [www.umdisabilityministries.org](http://www.umdisabilityministries.org).

## **Attending church in prison**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — As many as 120 women serving sentences for crimes that range from embezzlement to murder participate in Grace Place Ministries, a newly approved mission congregation at the Mark H. Luttrell Correctional Center. “It gives them a real connection to other United Methodist churches,” says the ministry’s executive director.

## **Volunteers bag 20,000 pounds of green beans**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — More than 300 people showed up Aug. 25 at Asbury United Methodist Church to help bag more than 20,000 pounds of green beans destined to feed the hungry. The Huntsville Times reported that the effort – coordinated by the Society of St. Andrew – looked like the biggest green bean casserole of all time in the making.

## **Loan break for United Methodist students**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The United Methodist loan program is offering a new option with lower interest and earlier repayment to help United Methodist college students struggling with increasing debt. The new offering, BorrowSmart, allows United Methodist college students to borrow \$5,000 at 3.75 percent interest. However, they begin repaying the loan in 90 days at \$50 a month rather than deferring repayment until six months after graduation or withdrawal from school. To learn more visit [www.gbhem.org](http://www.gbhem.org).

## **Worship attendance resource available**

WASHINGTON (UMNS) — To help churches improve worship attendance, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership is offering a free 10-minute video with practical suggestions. Find the video online at [www.churchleadership.com/attendance](http://www.churchleadership.com/attendance)

## **Church program calendar available**

NASHVILLE — With a theme of Changing the World One Life at a Time, the official 2013 United Methodist Program Calendar is now available from United Methodist Communications. It is available in a variety of formats, including an electronic version that updates your favorite calendar application and turns it into an official United Methodist church calendar. To order, call 888- 346-3862 or go to [umcom.org/CalendarStore](http://umcom.org/CalendarStore).

## **Report: Older clergy bubble grows**

WASHINGTON — The Lewis Center for Church Leadership released its 2012 report on “Clergy Age Trends in The United Methodist Church.” The report, prepared with assistance from the United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits, found that United Methodist elders ages 55 to 72 represent 53% of all active elders. The preponderance of older clergy is a trend across all mainline denominations, the report also found.

## **Do not forget Philippines**

NEW YORK — “The Philippines is still in desperate need,” reminds Jay Rollins of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Typhoon Saola tore into the region in early August and combined with seasonal monsoon rains to force more than 270,000 people to flee their homes in the provincial areas around Manila. Emergency teams used rafts and makeshift boats to rescue people from the city’s districts of poor and cramped housing. An update on the situation there and information about how to contribute is on the UMCOR website at [umcor.org](http://umcor.org).

## **Joplin congregation back to ‘sweet home’**

JOPLIN, Mo. — As members of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church filed out of the 10 a.m. service Sunday, Sept. 10, they heard the familiar strains of Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Sweet Home Alabama,” the Joplin Globe reports. The lyrics, however, had been modified to “sweet home St. Paul’s” since it was the first time in the worship center after the building was destroyed in the May 22, 2011, tornado.



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