

# The Good Word

## Brecksville United Methodist Church

Living in Christ. Serving in Love.

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Published April 23, 2010

### Join Us for Worship on Sunday

8:45-Contemporary Service

10:00- Christian Education

11:15- Traditional Service



#### May 2

Communion Sunday

United Methodist Women Sunday

#### May 6

UMW Meeting

#### May 8

YSP Plant Sale Pick Up

#### May 9

Mother's Day

Drivers License Blessing

#### May 12

Taizé Prayer Service

#### May 16

Low Emissions Sunday

#### May 22

Alpha Retreat

Cleveland Food Bank

#### May 23

Confirmation Sunday

CMAP Musical

#### May 31

Memorial Day

## You Are The Church

When United Methodists gather in conferences such as Annual Conference, Jurisdictional, and General, we are always careful to balance the laity—the people of the church—and the clergy—those ordained to specific service; the ministers.

In a local church, however, like here at Brecksville, the people of the church far outnumber the clergy. We are blessed here at Brecksville to have clergy such as Kendall Lancaster and Tom Taylor in addition to Karen Oehl and Libby Kuntz on staff. The clergy have training and gifts to offer the church.

But the real work of the church is done by the people. It always has been and always will be.

We are beginning our season of nominations, the work of the Lay Leadership Committee. This group of lay people will try to discern how we can best fill the many positions on committees, boards, and in volunteer slots that we need to carry on the ministry and mission of the church. In this newsletter you will find a copy of a form that describes many of those opportunities. Use it to find out more and express an interest in a particular area. It will also be available on Sunday mornings.

We need you to be the church: the people and leaders of this congregation. Prayerfully consider where you might share your time and talents in the coming year.



## Our Staff

Pastor: **Karen M. Oehl**  
pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor of Visitation  
**Libby Kuntz**  
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Financial Secretary  
**Pat Gordon**

Church School Registrar  
**Joan Olszko**

Facility Managers:  
**Jeff and Scott Hastings**

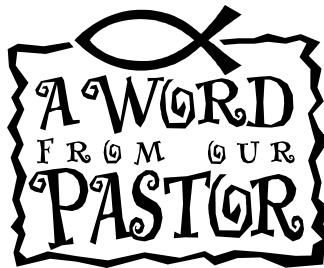
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### A Thank You from The Red Cross

Your blood drive on April 13 made it possible for the American Red Cross to make available **34** pints of blood for needed patient care. **35** people were inspired to donate blood. On behalf of the patients whose lives you have touched, as well as their loved ones, we offer heartfelt gratitude.

**Mark your calendar for our next blood drive on June 15th!**



## Graduation or Commencement?

*Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl*

Our daughter Kirsten completed her courses at Baldwin-Wallace this past December, and so is technically graduating this spring. But we are not going to the ceremonies, by her choice. “Mom,” she said, “I don’t want to go through graduation. I’m done, I have things to plan, I’m busy right now with work and everything else.” She has a job, is planning a wedding, and working on moving to England this summer. In her mind, college is already far in the past.



*There is always someone new to share with, a new mission calling to us, a new way of discovering that Jesus is alive and among us.*

I am not a big fan of graduation ceremonies. For some reason they always make me sad.

They are a bittersweet time, marking a stage of life that will never come again, yet celebrating the completion of a lot of hard work and effort. The high school graduations of our daughters were both meaningful and I’m glad I was there. But I am not regretting a missed ceremony this spring.

The word graduation stresses the completion aspect of this time. Commencement, on the other hand, reminds us that this is just the beginning. That is more how Kirsten feels. With her education done, she is ready, and more than ready, to move on.

I always think that the disciples never really had a graduation or even a commencement ceremony. They went straight from being followers to leaders. The crucifixion and resurrection were earth-shaking and world-shaping events for them. They brought to an end their time of training and thrust them into mission and ministry. They didn’t have time for a ceremony—they were busy doing things right away.

It is this hectic time of the early church that we are especially looking at this spring. What was going on in their lives? How was Jesus present to them? How had the world changed because Jesus was risen?

And what does this mean for us as disciples? Do we ever graduate? Do we ever commence? We are in the same place as the disciples were who first saw the empty tomb. The good news is always fresh. Jesus is always with us. We have a story to tell others. We never really graduate, because we are never really done. We are always commencing. There is always someone new to share with, a new mission calling to us, a new way of discovering that Jesus is alive and among us.

We will be confirming a group of eighth graders in the coming month. Too often confirmation is looked on as a kind of graduation, and not a commencement. There should never be such a moment in our Christian walk, when we think, “I am done.” We are always beginning. Our theme music is not *Pomp and Circumstance*, but *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Jesus is alive. Nothing will ever be the same again.

*Pastor Karen*

# CMAP takes the stage!

On Sunday, May 23, the children in our Christian Musical Arts Program will present their spring musicals. Beginning at 4:00 pm, our Kindergartners through third graders will present *It's Okay to Be Different*, a short musical in which we learn about peace and reconciliation through the Biblical image of the lion and the lamb. A rather contentious group of fearsome cats and gentle sheep will learn to get along, both musically and interpersonally. They will be led by Grace Auble and Megan Louttit, their "choir directors" in the show!

This story will be followed by our 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders in *Elijah, God's Faithful Prophet*. This intermediate musical tells a story of the many ways the prophet Elijah had to place his unwavering trust in God. Played by Eli Shively, Elijah has to navigate a dangerous landscape dotted with enemies: King Ahab (Bridget Gee), Queen Jezebel (Sarah Lundholm), and their many prophets and underlings who serve other Gods. Along the way, Elijah meets the Widow of Zarephath (Aleyna Gee) and is helped by his faithful friend Obadiah (Jenna Schroedel). The show is narrated by Erin Gee and Sarah Ford.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see our children and youth share these timeless stories about God's love and faithfulness. These programs are free and open to all and will be followed by a short reception. We hope to see you there!

~Joy Fenton, Director of Music



## Middle School Quest

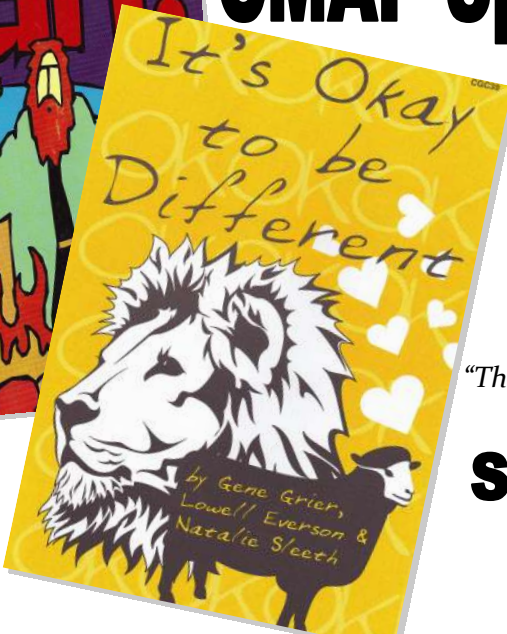
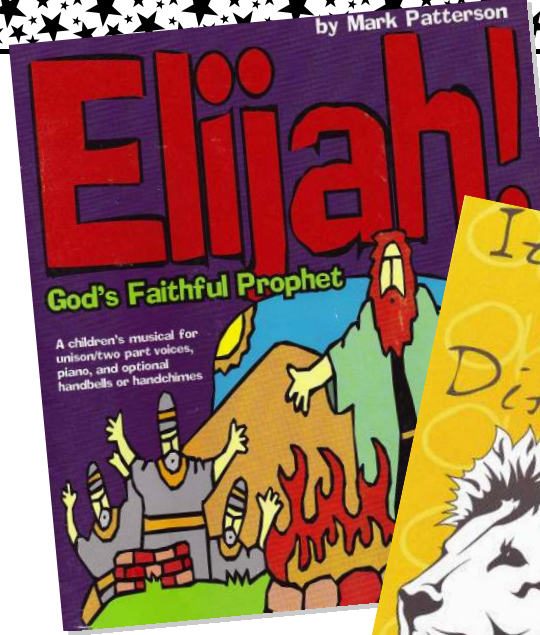
**Wednesdays—4-5:15pm** Join us for snacks, games, laughter and Bible Study every Wednesday at 4pm in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor youth room! All 6-8 graders are welcome!!

**May 8—YSP Flower Sale Pick-Up—10am- Noon**

**May 9—Driver's License Blessing—8:45am Service** If you have your driver's license or temps (or will this year) come and receive a blessing. We will be giving out key chains that have names and numbers on it. These are people who have said they will come get you and take you home if you are stranded by friends. No questions asked!!

**May 9--EPIC (High School)--6-7:30pm** 9-12 Graders and friends are welcome to attend! We will have pizza and great conversation!

**May 19— Final Quest for the year!!!**



## Don't miss the CMAP Spring Musical

The critics agree:

"One of the best musicals of the decade ...an instant classic." Jenny Gee

"CMAP Rocks!" Lisa Drew

"A toe tapping good time." Karen Oehl

"Perfect family fun!" Cec Podolny

"The best stories ever told!" Scott Hastings

## Sunday, May 23rd

4 pm—7 pm, Fellowship Hall



# Holy Picnic Recipe



## Alton Brown's Barley Bread

Prep Time: 10 min Cook Time: 40 min

Serves: 8 to 10 slices

- 10 oz barley flour (approx 3 cups)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 oz baking powder (approx 2 ½ Tbs)
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup canola oil, plus extra for pan
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup whole milk

## Directions

Preheat a gas grill on low heat for at least 10 minutes.

Lightly rub the sides and bottom of a 4 to 5-quart Dutch oven with canola oil and set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, salt and baking powder. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the honey, 1/4 cup oil, eggs and milk. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir until combined.

Pour the batter into the prepared Dutch oven; do not cover with a lid. Place the Dutch oven on the grill and close the lid of the grill. Cook with the lid shut for 35 to 40 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 190 degrees F. Allow to cool in Dutch oven for at least 5 minutes before turning out onto a cooling rack.

*\*Note: For baking in a traditional oven, bake in a 350 degrees F oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until the bread reaches an internal temperature of 190 degrees F. "It's so good!"*

## East Ohio Camps Open House

The weather is warming and the flowers are blooming...that means that NOW would be a great time to register for summer camp!! Would you like to tour the camps and ask some questions before registering? Attend an open house!



**Camp Asbury** -- Held an open house on April 18. Call the camp office at (330) 569-3171 to schedule a tour.

**Camp Wanake** -- Held an open house on April 25. Schedule a tour by calling (330) 756-2333.

**Camp Aldersgate** -- May 30, starting at 10 a.m. Schedule a tour by calling (330) 627-4369.

Check out the camp programs that they have planned for summer by visiting [www.eocumc.com/camps](http://www.eocumc.com/camps). Early Bird deadline is May 1.

## Family Memorial Day Weekend Camp Experience

Have you considered sending your kids away to summer camp, but are not sure that they would like it? Have you sent your kids off to camp and now you want to try it too? Do you not have any kids (or they are all grown up) and you want to spend a weekend with your spouse or friends surrounded by the beauty of God's creation? Sign up soon for Camp Wanake Memorial Day Weekend Camp-O-Rama. Pitch a tent, park an RV, rent a cabin or book a room in the retreat center. Cook your own meals (or dine at the nearby Amish Door Restaurant), swim, canoe, hike, rock climb and enjoy wagon rides. Let Jenny know if you would like to attend.



## Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School will be held June 28 through July 1 from 9:00 until 11:30 a.m. This year's title is Galactic Blast -- God's love for us is so apparent when we explore the beauty of His creations. Preschoolers through incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders will attend VBS at the church; while 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet at the Meadows Picnic Area in Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Sign up will begin in May. Volunteers are still needed to lead children and teach classes for VBS. Call Jenny if you are willing to help at VBS this year.



# NEVER SAY NEVER

By Lisa Drew

If I have heard it once then I have heard it a thousand times. "When it comes to my children, I have learned to never say 'never'." When I was still a teenager at Reynolds High School my brothers and I took part in lots of school activities; marching band, track, wrestling or wrestling manager, choir, band, Model UN, etc. And where we were our mother was sure to volunteer! All three of us participated in the school's marching band and each Fall our mother would volunteer in the concession stand. That was her hallowed training ground in the skill of never saying 'never'.

She would be talking with other parents while selling pop, candy bars and popcorn, and time after time she would hear them bragging about their offspring's stellar moral choices. My mother would be baffled at the parents' lack of knowledge of their own children. She would hear Mrs. K. brag about her daughter's devotion to the D.A.R.E. program while knowing we had told her Mrs. K's daughter had been drunk at the last school dance. She would hear Mr. L tell of the great work his son was doing academically and in all areas of life, while my mom knew his son was the school's drug connection. This sort of interaction occurred often enough to prove to my mother that where parents and kids are concerned it is wiser to always remember that they are children who make flawed choices sometimes. This can be tough when you are dealing with a young person who; holds a job, drives a car, and helps pay the family bills. Many of the highly mature actions can lull you into the misconception that your young people are ready to be out on their own and calling all of the shots. Trusting your kids can build great confidence in them, but you always need to remember to be on guard and watchful.

In April the Chemical Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) and our church co-hosted an evening for parents and youth called "Hidden in Plain Sight." They erected full scale girl's and boy's bedrooms to show parents how to recognize signs to watch for that can indicate risky behaviors and choices. While the parents were learning ways to help their teenagers, the youth met in the youth room and learned decision-making skills and talked about risky behaviors.

Those who participated gave us wonderful feedback and some teachers who attended are so excited that they are working to bring the program into the school for the teachers. On Wednesday May 12, you have the opportunity to attend an identical night at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. You can walk through the bedrooms at 6:30 and the program for youth and parents starts at 7pm. Feel free to call me with questions or contact the CAPA office at BBHHS. This is open for families of other communities, and I'd encourage grandparents or parents of pre-teens to attend as well.

Want to read more? Go to [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)



## MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

*Milestones celebrate the special happenings in the lives of BUMC. If you have a special anniversary, birth, retirement, wedding, special honor or other news you would like to share, please call or e-mail Melanie*

Dean Fowler, a member of our church for 28 years, died Tuesday, April 13. Services were held here April 16, Rev. Oehl officiating. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dean's wife, Patti, and to the Fowler family.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Debbi Scheufler and family on the death of Debbi's mother.

We welcome to the world Stella Ann McCrodden, who was born to Allen and Melodee McCrodden on Tuesday, April 6. Congratulations to proud grandparents Bruce and Judy McCrodden and to big sister, Mallory.

Another baby joined our extended family in April. Congratulations to Jeff and Marilyn Schillo on the arrival of their new granddaughter, Savannah Lucille.

In April we welcomed four babies into God's kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism: Ryan Scott Wilson, son of Brad and Heather; Mitchell James Bell, son of Jason and Alison; Brock Daniel Raybuck, son of Danielle and Scott; and Donald Jack McGree, son of Patrick and Amy. We rejoice in their rebirth through water and the Word.

Our own Scott Hastings took home a first place trophy from the annual DECA competition held April 13 in Canton. Scott and his team mates were recognized for "Group Decision Making." Way to go, Scotty!



April 23, 2010



Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate or professional school? We want to celebrate them during Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 13th. Please contact Melanie or Cec in the church office before May 28th by phone or e-mail to receive a graduate recognition form: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com.

### Volunteer Appreciation

Calling all volunteers!! Sunday June 6 is the last Sunday before summer worship hours begin. There is no Sunday School for any grade level that day so that we can join together to recognize the many people that volunteer their time and energy to our church. This means YOU!!! Please join us for breakfast, fellowship and volunteer recognition.

**Who:** You and everyone that makes our church family so strong

**What:** Volunteer Recognition Sunday

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**When:** Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Service on Sunday, June 6.

Mark your calendars and plan on attending!!!



Church Women United (CWU) has two exciting events planned for May.

On **May 3** take a **tour of churches**. Members of our church can car pool to the Islamic Center of Cleveland at 6055 W 139<sup>th</sup> St in Parma to pick up the bus at 9:30 A.M. The tour will end at this same location at 4:00 P.M. The \$32 cost includes lunch at Golden Corral. Sign-up sheets are in the church office or call Nancy Knowlton for a reservation or to car pool: 440-838-4341. On **May 18** enjoy the annual **Spring Salad Luncheon** for the Southwest chapter of CWU. This event will be held at Good Shepherd Church at noon. There is no fee, but be sure to bring a salad to share. Call Nancy if you are interested.

# BUMC Service Squad

*2010 Service Hours -- National Trails Day Trail Sweep*

We have the opportunity to join Adopt-a-Trail crew leaders and veteran crew members at the 9th annual Adopt-a-Trail Training Workshop to be held on National Trails Day, **Saturday, June 5, 2010. The day starts at 8 a.m.** with a continental breakfast, followed by one hour of classroom training. **From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. we will do an actual trail maintenance sweep** of along one of the trails in the CVNRA. Doing a trail sweep means to help pick up litter, trim tree branches, clear culverts, and report trail conditions. Let Jenny know if you are interested in this project. If we get a large enough group we will be assigned our own trail to "sweep".

*Meet at the Octagon Shelter, 801 Truxell Road, 1.5 miles west of Akron Cleveland Road in Peninsula. Bring a small pack with lunch, water and work gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.*



## The earth is the Lord's

### BUMC Growing Greener

With your cooperation and the encouragement especially of Jeff Hastings, Facilities Manager, we are developing some strategies to be more responsible in our use of the earth's resources.

We have changed over to mugs for Sunday morning coffee hours. Thanks to those who have brought in mugs. Remember that you can use a church travel mug to take coffee or tea to Sunday School classes. Many travel mugs are still available for you to own and bring back each week.

There are additional bins for recycling throughout the church, including a box for bulletins to go into on Sunday mornings in the Narthex.

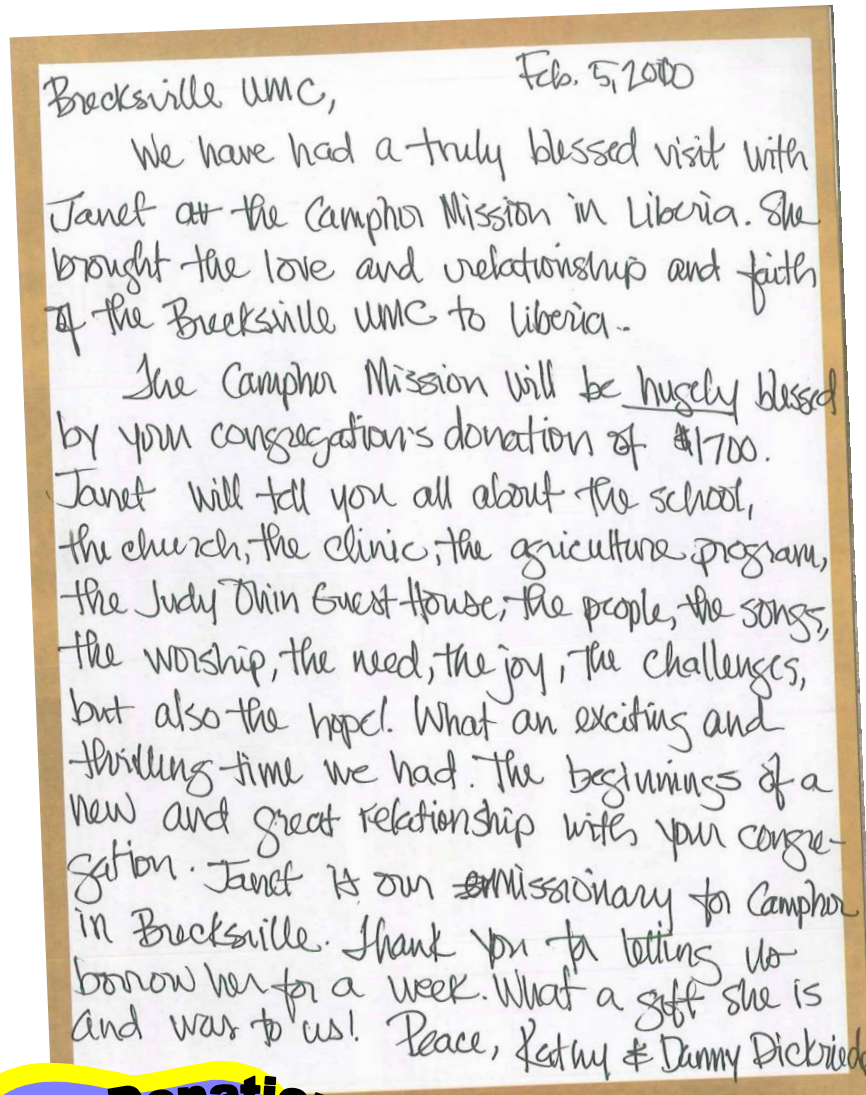
As the website is continuously updated, we encourage you to find and share information there or electronically, rather than with paper. Check for meeting minutes, calendar updates, the newsletter, and more.

Do you have other ideas for caring for the miracle that surrounds us in nature? Share them with the staff and church leaders and we will keep moving towards habits of good natural stewardship.



## Summer Hospitality

On June 13 we will start worship on the summer schedule, with an outdoor service at 8:30 am on the lawn, and a sanctuary service at 10:00. In recognition of the family feeling of these Sundays, we would like to invite families to serve as our summer hospitality teams. Pick a Sunday when you and your family, perhaps as a team with another family, will be our greeters and ushers. We will provide training and guidance. This is a great way to be involved one Sunday this summer and help to give our regular ushers a summer break. If you are interested, contact Pastor Karen or the office.



## Blue Bag Donations

Together, we collected:  
14 t-shirts, 62 pairs of socks,  
and underwear  
for 49 boys  
and 55 girls.

**THANK YOU**

for the childrens' homes

**A Letter From Liberia:** The church received this letter from Kathy and Danny Dickriede who are currently working for UMC in Liberia. Janet Kleckner had delivered money we had collected during our Christmas offering, money from Missions, and over 100 toothbrushes donated by you!

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Karen Pace
- 3 Shelby Olszko
- 5 Sandie Meyer
- 6 Suzanne Blatnik
- 8 Lori Pasek
- 8 Allie Russo
- 8 Linda Faulk
- 9 Jenny Gee
- 9 Eric Chen
- 9 Scott Hastings
- 10 Nancy Lee
- 10 Mike Terrill
- 11 Bill Rittman
- 11 Joseph Tereshko
- 11 Bobby Hotaling
- 11 Evan Croy
- 12 Walt Walburn
- 12 Dough Hurst
- 14 Danielle Fisher
- 15 Nora Culley
- 16 Harry Fox
- 17 Jeff Drescher
- 16 Donald Rickert
- 17 Lynn Hobzek
- 17 Sara Meyer
- 17 Matthew Dietrich
- 18 Gorman Eilbeck
- 18 Emily Kotnik
- 19 Philip Hines
- 20 Marjorie Arnold
- 20 Betty Fielden
- 20 Kristin Bindel
- 20 Kirk Robinson
- 22 Nick Bondra
- 22 Ken Hedges
- 22 Mark Hobzek
- 22 Brian Culley
- 23 Bev Huber
- 24 Brett Hof
- 25 Alan Scheufler
- 26 Bob Johns
- 26 Catherine Vastartis
- 27 Jack Neville
- 27 Don Krolikowski
- 27 Greg Diver
- 29 David Engler
- 30 David Engler, Jr.
- 30 Ashley Pace
- 31 Miriam Moore
- 31 Clark Rechkemmer




**A gift for Mom:** Three young children told their mother that she wasn't to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking. So they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes. Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!




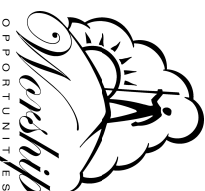
1 *What's happening at the church today?*

2 <i>Communion/ UMW Sunday</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 5 Alpha	3 6:30 <i>Women's Emmanus</i> 7:30 Board Trustees	4 9:30 Staff Meeting	5 6:30 <i>a Dawnbreakers</i> 4 CMAP 4 <i>Quest</i> 7 <i>Prayer Service</i>	6 9:30 UMW 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir	7 7a <i>Emmanus Reunion</i>	8 <b>YSP Plant Sale</b>
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9 <i>Driver's License Blessing</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b>  5 Alpha 6 EPIC	10 6 <i>Evangelism</i> 6:30 <i>Women's Emmanus</i> 7:30 COM	11 9:30 Staff Meeting 8 Music Board Staff Supper (SPR)	12 6:30 <i>a Dawnbreakers</i> 4 CMAP 4 <i>Quest</i> 7 <i>TaiZe!Prayer Svc</i>	13 9:30 <i>Asbury Bremelh</i> 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir	14 7a <i>Emmanus Reunion</i>	15 4:30 <i>Wedding</i>
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16 <i>Low Emissions Sunday</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 3 Oberammergau Meeting 5 Alpha	17 6:30 <i>Women's Emmanus</i> 7 COE 7:30 Finance	18 9:30 Staff Meeting	19 6:30 <i>a Dawnbreakers</i> 7 <i>Prayer Service</i> 4 CMAP 4 <i>Final Quest of the Year!</i>	20 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir 4:30-6:30 <i>Confirmation Service Rehearsal</i>	21 7a <i>Emmanus Reunion</i> 12 NACB-4	22 9:30 CMAP <i>Rehearsal</i> 10:45 CMAP <i>Rehearsal</i> 12:30 <i>Recital</i> 7:30 <i>Cleveland Food Bank Alpha Retreat</i>
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23 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 4 CMAP Musical 5 Alpha	24 6:30 <i>Women's Emmanus</i> 7:30 <i>Worship Committee</i>	25 9:30 Staff Meeting	26 6:30 <i>a Dawnbreakers</i> 7 <i>Prayer Service</i>	27 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir	28 7a <i>Emmanus Reunion</i> 9:30 UMW Board	29 4:30 <i>Wedding</i>
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30 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 4 <i>Wedding</i> 5 Alpha	31 <i>Church Offices Closed</i>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	 <b>May 2:</b> United Methodist Women's Sunday with Rev. Yvonne Connor, Broadway UMC, Communion <b>May 9:</b> Mother's Day, Scriptures: Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 'The new Jerusalem' Sermon title: "God comes home" <b>May 16:</b> Acts 16:16-34, John 17:20-26 Sermon title: "Spare change and change to spare" <b>May 23—Pentecost</b> Confirmation Sunday! <b>May 30—Trinity Sunday Memorial Day</b> weekend, Scriptures: Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15 Sermon title: "Trinity—you do the math"				
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