

The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

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

May Issue : Published April 21, 2011

The fields of the poor may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.

Proverbs 13:23

The announcement in the bulletin Palm Sunday read:

Wave your palm today knowing that they are Eco-Palms!! These are palms harvested in a sustainable way which minimizes the impact on the natural forest and helps protect the environment. Harvesters in Guatemala and Mexico are trained to gather only quality palm fronds which allow the plant to keep growing. The palms are then brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export. By processing the palms themselves, these communities keep more of the profits. When we raise our branches, we play an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities.

You might have wondered to yourself "What is an eco-palm and why am I waving one?"

The Eco-Palms concept is simple: Teach villagers sustainable harvest techniques; eliminate middlemen; pay more for harvesting, sorting and packing; and thus provide an economic incentive to protect the tropical and subtropical forests in whose shade the plants grow.

Throughout Lent, we reflect on the origins of Palm Sunday. Of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and of palms being thrown along his path by the gathered people who believed he was the new hope for an ailing world. To us, this is what those waxy green palm fronds represent. To the producers of palm, however, they represent something very different: an unjust system of trade that keeps them trapped in a cycle of poverty.

In Guatemala and Mexico, palm producers are called xaterros (sha-tare-rows). These hard working people trek deep into the forest to extract palm that they bring back to sell to middlemen, who go on to sell it all over the world. Although palm purchases total about \$4.5 million

a year, the xaterros see very little of this money.

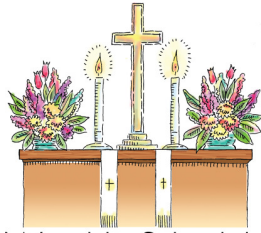
Making matters worse is the fact that the middlemen pay for palm by volume, prompting xaterros to extract as much palm as possible from the forests, often to the detriment of the palm trees. In trying to earn a living for themselves, they are forced to systematically destroy their main source of income.

UMCOR supports the sale of Eco-Palms, a more just and environmentally friendly palm product. The harvesting of Eco-Palms encourages a better system of harvesting palms by paying harvesters by the quality, not the quantity, of their fronds. Instead of selling their palms to middlemen, cooperatives of palm harvesters process, package, store and ship their own palm, keeping more of the money made from sales in their own communities.

Our purchase of Eco-Palms directly helps these communities, who will benefit from the income from the purchase. An extra "social premium," goes back to the cooperative to invest in the community. This premium (about five cents of every palm purchased) has built schools, provided health care to harvesters and their families, and improved the storage facilities of their palm businesses, enabling xaterros and their families to harvest more and better palms to earn income for their families.

Throughout the Easter season, let us not only reflect on the wonder of Jesus' death and resurrection, but also on the life he lived on earth. He walked with the poor, the ostracized, the disadvantaged. In His teachings he emphasized again and again that we must fulfill the mandate to love one another as God loves us. Let's honor this mandate by ensuring that everyone can share in the sense of joy, celebration and hope that the coming of Christ brings for all of God's people.

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education



Worship Schedule

8:45 First Service

10:00 Education hour

11:15 Second Service

Wednesdays at 7 pm Prayer Service

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Holey, Wholly, Holy

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

We enter this week the most joyous season of the church year: Easter season. Yes, season. Easter is not a one-time, one-day, one-big-church-service event. It is a season that begins with Easter day and continues until Pentecost. During this time period, according to tradition, the resurrected Christ appeared to various followers and they received additional teaching and commissioning.

The day of resurrection was just a beginning of the new life in Christ. We are Easter people. Every Sunday is a "little Easter." New life begins NOW.

Some years ago I attended a workshop and the presenter used these three words to organize her talk: holey, wholly, holy. I'd love to remember her name to give her credit, because I have appreciated and used these words to help me understand and teach about our faith ever since.

Before Jesus' death and resurrection we experience the pain of being *holey*. We are thirsty, confused, wounded, broken, and incomplete. Jesus' act of supreme love, dying on the cross, draws us into a new relationship with God. We are reconciled and made complete. We are able to live life *wholly*. And day by day in that life in Christ we become more *holy*, more and more like God.

These three words correspond beautifully with the forms of grace described by John Wesley. While we are *holey* God's prevenient grace is calling to us, inviting us, wooing us into relationship. When we accept Jesus as savior, we experience wholeness in God's justifying grace. And throughout life we are sanctified by grace, growing into divine likeness.

It is the third step of discipleship and life in Christ that many struggle with. How can I become holy, or sanctified? Other words used for this state are perfect, righteous, or just. They do not seem much easier to accomplish as a human being. Remember, that it is no longer as a human being that you are trying to accomplish this state. It is as a person infused with life in Christ, immersed in the grace of God, empowered by the Spirit. An Easter person.

Are you feeling holey? I invite you once again to encounter, in the Word, worship, and fellowship of this congregation the living presence of Jesus, who brings us wholeness and holiness of heart and life.

Pastor Karen



As part of the Brecksville Bicentennial festivities there will be a parade on the afternoon of June 25. Wouldn't it be great to have the Brecksville United Methodist Church represented by a float or parade participants? If you, your family, or a group within the church would like to do this, let Pastor Karen know. There is an application that can be filled out online or on paper. The Bicentennial Committee is interested in participants with an historical theme. Be creative! A circuit rider, a replica of our bell, a "then and now" tableau?

Adult Sunday School for May

If you're looking for some interesting topics, sign up for a short course of Adult Education Classes this month. This session will be offered on four consecutive Sundays: May 1, 8, 15 and 22. There will be no classes May 29.



Leadership Ethics *Facilitated by Les Buttolph*

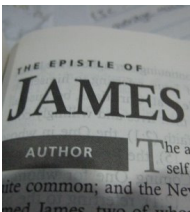
What makes a Christian leader? Is there, should there be, a difference in leadership as a Christian? What ethics are involved? These are some of the topics involved as we look at Christian leadership in the workplace or in any place you might find yourself in a leadership position. David Steward, in his book Doing Business by the Good Book relates some of the issues he faced as he and his wife took a “no way you can succeed” business and built it into a multi-billion dollar business by applying Christian principles in his life and leadership. His applications to the corporate world are very insightful and applicable to our daily roles, in and out of the workplace. We will look at different topics each week. You are invited to join us for any of all of the four informal discussion groups. No book or homework will be assigned.



Harry Potter and the Christian Life

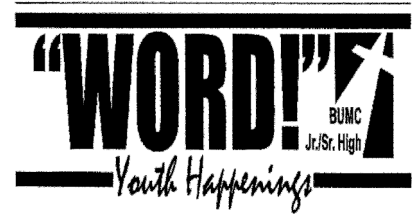
Facilitated by Carole Brachna

Love Harry Potter and want to discuss the spiritual side of these books? In this four week session, we'll focus on books 6 and 7 (HP and the Half-Blood Prince, and, HP and the Deathly Hallows.), discussing how they relate to Christianity.



The Letter of James *Facilitated by Kendall Lancaster*

The Letter of James was written to encourage Jewish Christians to a vibrant faith that proves itself through concrete action. The book deals with practical matters of how a Christian ought to live. The author of the letter defines religion that is “pure and undefiled” strictly in terms of ethical conduct. “Faith without works is dead,” James says. There is no such thing as true faith that does not show itself in a life of godliness. The four one hour sessions (May 1,8,15,22) at 10am will be facilitated by Kendall Lancaster. Attendees are encouraged to use their own commentary to aid in discussion.



May 7th

YSP Flower Sale Pick-Up and Car Wash

10am-Noon

May 8th

Driver's License Blessing

8:45am & 11:15am services

May 14th

Indians Faith and Family Day

John Dietrich is leading a group to the Indians game May 14th.

Everyone's Invited!

The cost is only \$10 and includes: an Indians game, Faith testimonies by Indians players, and a concert by Relient K at the Q. You are responsible for your own food so bring cash! RSVP with John at john.dietrich@sbcglobal.net before May 8th. More adults will be needed to drive and you will need to have a medical form if you are under 18 to give John when you arrive. Meet at the church at Noon and expect to be home at 6:30pm.



Paper Recycling



Recycling 449 pounds of paper saves 1571 gallons of H2O

This year, we're weighing our paper before it goes to recycling. So far we've recycled 449 pounds of paper — and saved 1,571 gallons of water! Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil, and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity.



The bike club, **Wednesday Wheels**, will meet every Wednesday beginning May 4 (as weather permits) for a group bike ride at 6:15 pm.

Hiking Club will meet the first Sunday of each month at 2 pm for a hike through one of the local parks.

Hikes will be varied and will be based on the abilities of the hikers participating.

Contact Scott Campbell to learn more about either club!
440-823-1092 or
srcampbell@roadrunner.com



A big thank you to all who participated in the UMW Fundraiser for Missions at Creekside Restaurant on April 12. We raised \$420 for missions projects – and enjoyed some great food!

Mowing Club



With the warmer weather comes the lawn mower! Special thanks to the following teams who will keep the church grounds trim and tidy this summer by volunteering to cut the grass one week per month.

Carol Herzing & Bob Lundholm
Dick Hayes & George Sendrey
Joy Fenton & Matt Johnson
Mark Spencer & Doug Huth
Robert Bloch & Scott Campbell

LOW EMISSIONS SUNDAY

In 2009 during Youth Annual Conference at Lakeside the East Ohio district adopted a resolution to establish one Sunday a year as an Environmental Awareness Sunday and Low Emissions Sunday. The youth encouraged members to walk, bicycle, or carpool to church to reduce the use of nonrenewable resources.

Last year in May we held BUMC's first Low Emissions Sunday and we had walkers, bikers and carpoolers arriving to church in environmentally friendly style. The response from the participants was very positive so we are going to try it again this year on May 22. Talk to your neighbors and see if you could carpool to church or dress down a bit and ride your bike or take a brisk early morning walk. This is a great opportunity to feel connected to God's creation. Look at what our Book of Discipline says:



All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect... Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation.



Dig out your walking shoes and take a low emissions trip to church on May 22!

WALK BIKE CARPOOL To Church! MAY 22

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Psalm 24:1

Drivers' License Blessing

Why do we do it?



Each year, the week before the Brecksville-Broadview Height School District Prom, we invite our young people who currently have their Driver's License or Temps to come forward during the service.

We offer a blessing to them as their church family, and then give them a key chain with special names and phone numbers attached. They are instructed to keep the key chain with them or at least to keep it in their car. Those names and numbers are very important because they could literally be used as a life-line for the young people we love so much.

I'm sad to say that the leading cause of death among teenagers is vehicle accidents (73%). And I also noticed that 75% of those accidents occurred within 25 miles of their home. Most parents would be very hesitant to allow their child to drive on a long road trip, but when it comes to piling their car full of friends to drive around town they are much more likely to acquiesce. Distraction when driving can be deadly.

We offer the blessing before Prom to plant the seed in the youths' heads that we love them and want them to make choices that will give them the best chance of coming through the Prom week-end unharmed. But we also must remember that drugs and alcohol are not the only reason kids are dying in car accidents. Distraction mixed with inexperience is leading to deaths not only through friends distracting them, but their cell phones. Cell phones have the capability of not only calling someone, but texting and even surfing the internet. In 2008, 16% of all vehicle fatalities were due to distraction. In a recent poll, 63% of people under the age of 30 admitted to texting on their cell phones while driving.

Teenagers are 3 times more likely to be in a fatal crash

Teenagers are 3 times more likely to be in a fatal crash, and we as a church have a responsibility to love our kids enough to recognize these realities and tell them we care about their behavior in respect to their driving.

I mentioned earlier the key chains with the names and numbers on them. Those names and numbers are people from our congregation who have said that they would be willing, "no questions asked" to receive a call from a teenager who needs a ride home. We need to be a community that not only instructs youth, but actively supports their lives. Sunday May 8th, make sure youth you love who drive are at church. Make sure they have a key chain and put those phone numbers in their cell phones. And take the time to renew your commitment to being a safe driver yourself. Put down those cell phones, or pull over and park before using them. Don't drive if you even have a tiny concern that your alcohol level is questionable. Remember that our faith goes with us in the car!

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

- Lisa Kropinak,

East Ohio Camps



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?

- ♦ Camp Aldersgate is offering an open house on May 22 from 2 -4 p.m. If you cannot make it to Aldersgate on this date but would like to schedule a tour by calling (330) 627-4369.
- ♦ Camp Asbury – Scheduled Open House dates are over but you can call the camp office at (330) 569-3171 to schedule a tour.
- ♦ Camp Wanake – Scheduled Open House dates are over but you can call the camp office at (330) 756-2333 to schedule a tour.

Check out the camp programs that they have planned for summer by visiting www.eocumc.com/camps. Early Bird discounts are available through May 1.



Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate or professional school? We want to celebrate them during Graduation Recognition Sunday, May 22. Please contact Melanie or Cec in the church office before May 11 by phone or e-mail to receive a graduate recognition form (or download the form from the church website). 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com.

Summer Music Opportunities

Have you been busy this year? Looking forward to relaxing a little bit this summer? Whether you are a “regular” in the music program or not, summer is a *great* time to get involved! Check out these opportunities to be involved in worship through the summer months...

Summer Choir!

This is an opportunity for families to sing together in worship in a relaxed environment. Summer choir is happening on June 26, July 24 and August 21. Singers of *all ages* will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:20 am, rehearse for about 20 minutes, take a short break, and then share our anthem in worship at 10:00. This is a great opportunity for families to sing together... no “reservations” necessary... just show up!

Special Music

Summer is a wonderful, relaxed time to share our unique musical gifts with one another. Singers and instrumentalists, if there is a solo or duet you would like to share as special music this summer, please contact me at music@brecksvilleumc.com. I can also help you select a piece of music or aid with bringing a small ensemble together. Fresh ideas are welcome... we would love to hear you!

Praise Team

Our praise team continues to lead worship through the months of summer. We are currently seeking guitar and electric bass players, in particular, to be a part of this fun ensemble! We keep practice times to a minimum, but extra help is always available. New vocalists and instrumentalists are always welcome; contact Joy if you want to get involved!

Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

— Psalm 148:12-13

The Process of Spiritual Direction

“The reason the antelopes cross the desert in a herd is so they can blow the dust from each others’ eyes.”

African Proverb

Do you have a time and place marked on your calendar for conversation about your relationship with God? As you pray, do you ever wonder what God is saying to you about what God would have you do in response to prayer?

Spiritual Direction, sometimes referred to as spiritual guidance or spiritual companionship is an on-going relationship in which one person, (the directee), desiring to be attentive to his or her spiritual life, meets with another person, (the director) on a regular basis. The specific focus and purpose of the meeting (every 4-8 weeks) is develop the directee’s awareness of God’s presence in order to respond more fully to that Presence in all of life.

These meetings are for those who assume responsibility for their life with God. Directees are serious about intentional prayer and reflection on the God-currents of every day life and prayer. During the meeting both parties seek to enter a prayerful atmosphere where together they can be attentive to the Holy Spirit who is, in fact, the real director. It is assumed that the directee has begun a journey with God long before the beginning of these discussions, and that this intentional journey will continue long after leaving a particular spiritual director. The director is only a facilitator in the process. The directee must claim the journey.

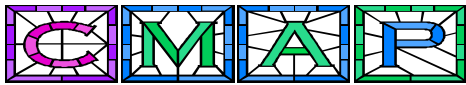
We have made arrangements for the staff and lay leaders at the church to meet with a spiritual director, who will be present for 45 minute meetings (dates and specific times to be announced.) We have established a fund to cover the expenses of this ministry.

See Pastor Karen for more information.

Westside Community House Sisterhood



UMW is collecting girls' age 11 to 18 size socks, bras, and underpants for the Westside Community House Sisterhood. A collection hamper can be found in the cloakroom for the items. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen 440-526-6481. Donations will be collected until June 6.



On Palm Sunday, our Christian Musical Arts Program presented two programs: *The Passion Drama*, an interactive walk through the last week of the life of Jesus; and *The Tale of Three Trees* which tells the tale of three little trees who stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first tree wanted to be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world. The second tree wanted to be a strong sailing ship. The third tree didn't want to leave the mountaintop at all! "I want to grow so tall that when people stop and look at me they will raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!"

The first tree was not turned into a beautiful treasure chest, but was made into a "feed box" a food trough for animals to eat out of. The second tree was not built into a mighty sailing ship, but was built into a small smelly fishing boat, too small to sail on the ocean. The third tree was "confused" when it was cut down. TIME PASSED! The three trees nearly forgot their dreams.... Do you know the rest of the story?



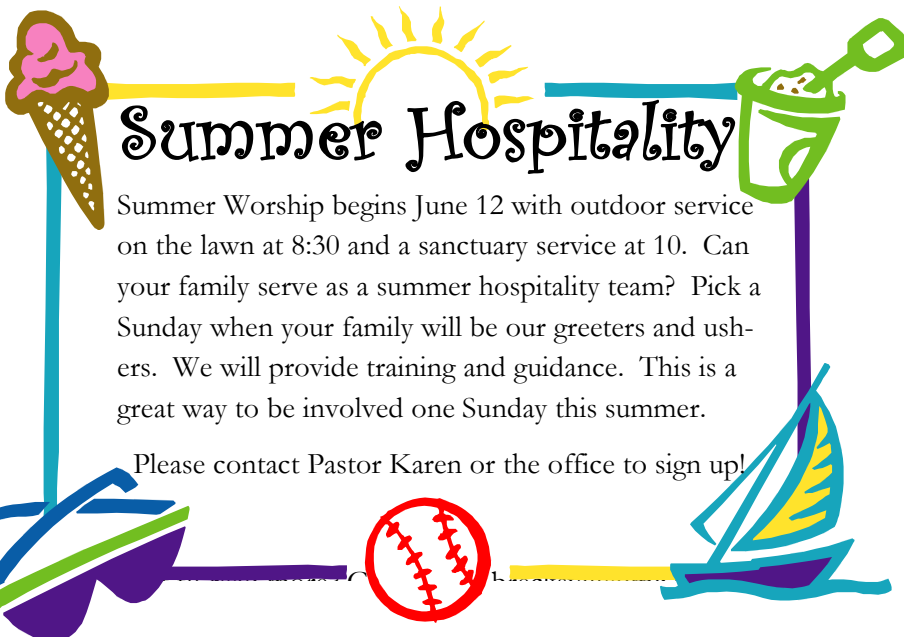
A Message from The Administrative Board Chairperson

In response to my April 6th letter, a number of you have asked who to contact to either make a pledge or increase your pledge. First, a hearty "Thank you" from all of your BUMC family! Second, my apologies for not including that information in the letter. All pledges are confidential and managed by Pat Gordon and Les Buttolph. Please contact the office directly and either Pat or Les will get back to you.

Blessings, Sue Hastings



The cost is only \$10 and includes an Indians game, Faith testimonies by Indians players, and a concert by Relient K. RSVP before May 8th to John at john.dietrich@sbcglobal.net. Meet at the church at Noon and expect to be home at 6:30pm.



Save the Date:
Garden Elves Rummage Sale
Saturday, September 17

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Ages 3 - 10

PANDAMANIA

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*Save the dates! July 18 through
July 22*

9 a.m. until noon

For all kids aged 3 (by 7/1/11) through 10 (or those entering 5th grade in the fall)

Get ready!! Get excited!! PandaMania is coming to BUMC and it is going to be a wild good time!!! At PandaMania, kids discover that God is wild about them – a fact that will change them forever. We will have incredible Bible learning experiences that kids can see, hear and even taste!! Crafts, games, songs and tasty treats are just a few of the activities that will help faith flow into real life. Kids (and adults) take deliberate notice of the evidence of God in everyday life – something we call God Sightings!

To register:

Go online to brecksvilleumc.com and click on the Vacation Bible School link, or pick up a copy of the registration form in the church office.



Grades 6 - 8

THE WILD!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

You're invited to a Vacation Bible School just for Middle School Kids!

Who: Kids going into 6th-8th Grades

What: Explore Bible stories together and nurture your faith in a fun, creative, comfortable atmosphere.

When: July 18 - 22 from 9am-Noon.

Where: Brecksville UMC Youth Room

Directors: George Gee & Katie Bartholomew

Cost: \$20

SAVE *the* DATE



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

We are saddened by the loss of long time member, Jean Johns, who passed away in Florida on March 29th, her 81st birthday. A memorial service celebrating Jean's life will be held **Monday, May 16, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.** (visitation with the family beginning at 3 p.m.) here at the church.

The City of Brecksville has recognized our own Margie Benedict with the 20 Year Service Award. Margie is a greeter with the Human Services Department's highly successful Thursday senior lunch and with the Meals on Wheels program. She is also a long-time member of the Department's Advisory Board and was recently given lifetime Honorary Member status by Mayor Hruby. Others of the BUMC community were also honored for their service, including: Sylvia Fowler, Tim McDonel, and others. Mayor Hruby also recognized volunteers who passed away this year. Gordon Markley and Duane McDowell were honored. We're so thankful for all of you who serve our community in love!

Les Buttolph has completed his next step toward ministry. He has been approved as an inquiring ministry candidate by our Administrative Board and Staff Parish Relations Committee.

Please keep our organist, Chris Toth, in your prayers as we will be undergoing another surgery this month.

A Correction from last issue:

Congratulations to Tiffany Warth on her engagement to Ian Jacobs. The couple will wed in August.



Birthdays

Karen	Pace	05/02	Gorman	Eilbeck	05/18
Shelby	Olszko	05/03	Emily	Kotnik	05/18
Sandra	Meyer	05/05	Brandon	Toman	05/18
Suzanne	Blatnik	05/06	Philip	Hines	05/19
David	Shively	05/07	Marjorie	Arnold	05/20
Linda	Faulk	05/08	Kirk	Robinson	05/20
Stephanie	Holmes	05/08	Ryan	Wilson	05/20
Lori	Pasek	05/08	Emily	Miller	05/21
Allie	Russo	05/08	Nicholas	Bondra	05/22
Eric	Chen	05/09	Brian	Culley	05/22
Jennifer	Gee	05/09	Kenneth	Hedges	05/22
Scott	Hastings	05/09	Mark	Hobzek	05/22
Alison	Bell	05/10	Beverly	Huber	05/23
Jack	Drescher	05/10	Nathan	Hudacek	05/23
Sandra	Kovalik	05/10	Michael	Lee	05/23
Nancy	Lee	05/10	Kirsten	Conchie	05/24
Michael	Stratis	05/10	Brett	Hof	05/24
Evan	Croy	05/11	Evan	Jaite	05/24
Bobby	Hotaling	05/11	Taylor	Kwiatkowski	05/24
William	Rittman	05/11	Thomas	Taylor	05/24
Joseph	Tereshko	05/11	Gabrielle	Groes	05/25
Douglas	Hurst	05/12	Alan	Scheufler	05/25
Walter	Walburn	05/12	Trevor	Johns	05/26
Chris	Wygonski	05/12	Carina	Kosla	05/26
Michael	Paroda	05/13	Alison	Rickert	05/26
Nancy	Sirianni	05/13	Catherine	Vastartis	05/26
Nora	Culley	05/14	Greg	Diver	05/27
Danielle	Fisher	05/14	Donald	Krolikowski	05/27
Wyatt	Slifcak	05/14	John	Neville	05/27
Melanie	Smith	05/15	David	Engler	05/29
Jeffrey	Drescher	05/16	David	Engler, Jr.	05/29
Harry	Fox	05/16	Bailey	Mendlik	05/29
Donald	Rickert	05/16	Joshua	Dietrich	05/30
Lauren	Sendrey	05/16	Ashley	Pace	05/30
Matthew	Dietrich	05/17	Miriam	Moore	05/31
Lynn	Hobzek	05/17	Clark	Rechkemmer	05/31
Sara	Meyer	05/17			








Looking for an opportunity to help? Join us for yard work and installing mulch on Saturday, May 21 at 8:30 am. Bring your work gloves! Contact the office to add your name to the list of folks helping the church get ready for summer!

Churchyard Cleanup Day

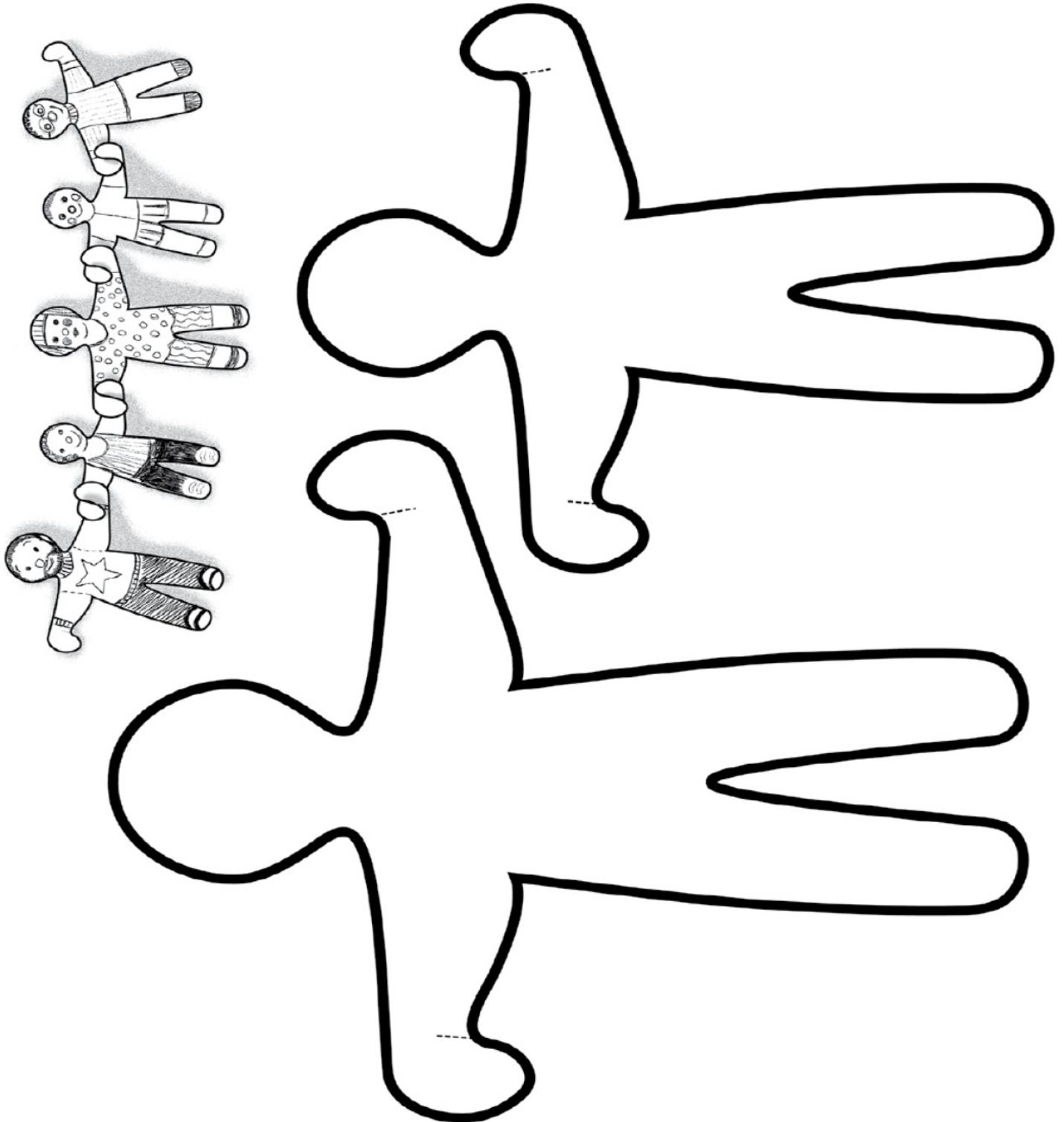
May 2011

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Confirmation 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 2 Hiking Club 4 BCA Chorus Spring Concert	2 7 "Jesus in the Gospels" Bible Study	3 11 Staff Meeting 6:30 Softball 7:30 Gifts and Memorials	4 6:30 Dawnbrks 6:15 Bike Club 	5 9:30 UMW 4 Women's Emmaus 5 Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 7 VBS Planning 7:30 Choir	6 7 Emmaus Reunion	7 10 YSP Plant Sale 
8 Mother's Day Drivers' Blessing 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship 	9 7 Final "Jesus in the Gospels" Bible Study	10 9:30 Staff Mtg 6:30 Softball 7 COM 8 COE, Evangelism, Missions, Music Board, Worship, Youth Board	11 6:30 Dawnbrks 6:15 Bike Club	12 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 4 Women's Emmaus 5 Last Soul Quest 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir	13 7 Emmaus Reunion 7 Wedding Rehearsal	14 1:30 Wedding
15 UMW Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship	16 4 Jean Johns Memorial Service	17 9:30 Staff Mtg 6:30 Softball 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees	18 6:30 Dawnbrks 6:15 Bike Club 7 Staff Parish Relations	19 4 Women's Emmaus 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	20 7 Emmaus Reunion 	21 7:30 Cleveland Food Bank 
22 Acolyte Recognition Sunday Low Emissions Sunday Graduate Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hr 11:15 Worship	23	24 9:30 Staff Mtg 6:30 Softball	25 6:30 Dawnbrks 6:15 Bike Club	26 4 Women's Emmaus 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Chancel Choir	27 7 Emmaus Reunion 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	28
29 8:45 Worship No Education Hr. 11:15 Worship	30 Church Office Closed 	31 9:30 Staff Mtg 6:30 Softball	Focus in May: What it means to be a people of God. May 1: Confirmation Sunday, Communion May 8: Exodus 1:15-21; 2 Samuel 21:10-14; 1 Samuel 25 May 15: UMW Sunday, Rev. Jan Yandell, guest preacher May 22: Graduation Sunday, Acolyte Recognition and Reception Genesis 24; 2 Kings 9:1-7, 10b-13; Luke 5:1-11 May 29: Genesis 28:1-22; Joshua 4:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26			

A Gift for Pastor Karen

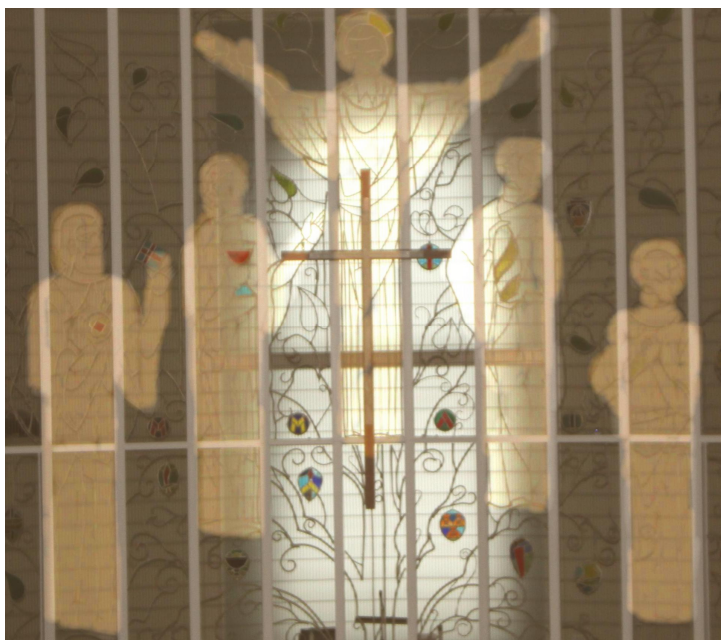
On Sunday, June 12, we will hold an All Church Picnic at the Oak Grove Picnic area in Brecksville Reservation to say farewell to Pastor Karen and Chris. As a special memento, let's create a paper chain representing our church family. Trace the shapes below onto sturdy paper, cut them out, and decorate them lavishly. Put your name on it somewhere and write your well wishes on the back. Copies can be found in the Parlor, the church office and online. Return your creations to Cec in the church office by June 5th. She'll form them into a chain and display it at the picnic.



The Chancel Screen

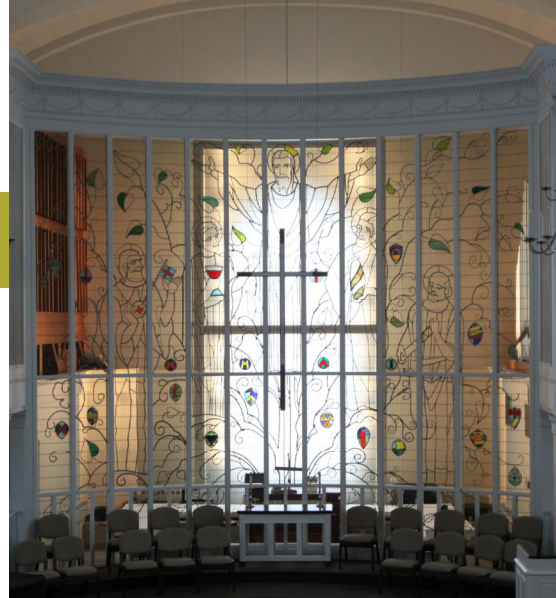
Have you ever wondered about the history of our Chancel Screen? It was designed and created by Cleveland artist Willard Wetmore Combes in October 1964. Combes was the head of the department of Illustration at the Cleveland School of Art, an editorial cartoonist for the Cleveland Press, and a teacher at Western Reserve University School of Architecture. Working closely with the building architect, Otto Spieth; the church pastor, Reverend William Hogg; and the building committee Mr. Combes created a unique, inspirational, and functional design, based on the verse: ***I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me.*** John 15:5 The metal vines and the glass discs all express a story. The screen is intended to unfold in meaning to worshippers throughout the years. To learn about each symbol on the screen, pick up a copy of the chancel screen brochure or view it at the church website.

Figures on the Screen



In the center of the chancel screen is an 11 foot tall figure of **Christ** outlined in metal. An intertwining vine symbolizes the branching of the church and the far reaching effect of Christ's ministry on earth. The vine leads your eye to the New Testament disciples whose ministries bore fruit. These disciples are symbolized by the colored glass discs.

To Christ's immediate right is **John**. John holds a cup to remind us of the passage in Luke 20 when John and James ask Jesus for a favored position in heaven. Jesus responds by asking "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"



*"I am the vine, and you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me,
and I in him, will bear much fruit,
for you can do nothing
without me." - John 15:5*

Holding the key, to the far right of Jesus, is **Simon Peter**. Simon and his brother Andrew were both fisherman in Galilee when Jesus called them to follow him. Simon's faith was so firm that Jesus gave him the name Peter, meaning rock.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 16:18-19)

Philip stands to Christ's immediate left holding a loaf of bread recalling the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. In John 6 Philip questions Jesus about how they could possibly feed such a large crowd. Philip's faith is no doubt strengthened through this miracle.

Paul, with his eyes closed, stands next to Philip. He holds a scroll representing his letters to the early churches. Paul, originally Saul, was born in Tarsus in what is now southern Turkey. He was a persecutor of early Christians until his eyes were opened. Paul made three great missionary journeys throughout Greece and Turkey spreading the Good News of Christ.

Brecksville United Methodist Church

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