

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

The Good Word



NOVEMBER ISSUE

OCTOBER 26, 2012

65 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

440-526-8938

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

World Communion Sunday



At BUMC, when you miss a Sunday, you miss a lot!

This year, we celebrated World Communion Sunday on October 7, and our worship was enriched by many unique gifts.

We were joined in worship by drummers from the Native American Center in Cleveland, who shared their prayers and songs with us as we gathered for worship. We thank their director, Robert Roach, for coordinating that visit.



Scott, Payton and Hudson Schneider shared Psalm 23 in American Sign Language, and Marisol Wylie gave our Old Testament reading in Spanish. Chancel Choir was also joined by Abby Smith, playing violin on their anthem, *Table of the World*.



During our Communion time, we blessed various types of bread from cultures and countries around the world, and members of the congregation were invited to take those breads and make them a part of their Sunday meal.



International flags, symbolizing Christian brotherhood and sisterhood with our faith family around the world, will still be on display through the end of October.

World Communion reminds us of what is always true: we are in community with brothers and sisters of every race, color, tongue and nation. What a blessing to have such diversity in the family of God!

Pictured at left: Drummers from the Native American Education Center; Breads from Around the World; Signing The Scriptures; Micah in Spanish



CHARGE CONFERENCE *Sunday, October 28*

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



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



God Has Provided for Us

Comments from Rev. Clark Stein

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

- Malachi 3:10-11

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor of Visitation

Libby Kuntz

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music:

Joy E. Parker

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Christian Education

Jenny Gee

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Youth Ministries

Kyle Allen

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Business Manager: **Les Buttolph**

finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: **Melanie Smith**

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Administrative Assistant:

Cec Podolny

cecp@brecksvilleumc.com

Financial Secretary,

Pat Gordon

Church School Registrar,

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers,

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

Organist, **Chris Toth**

tothchristopher@att.net

Published monthly by

Brecksville United Methodist Church

65 Public Square,

Brecksville, OH 44141

Article deadline: 3rd Friday monthly.

It is easy to convince ourselves that everything we can see has come to us through our best efforts. Much toil, tribulation and worry accompanies most of our significant acquisitions. We remember how hard we needed to work for that next promotion, raise, bigger house, maximum IRA deduction, large screen TV, the pool, the "sportier" new car. We set the goal for ourselves and did what was necessary to see it through. There is a strong sense of satisfaction in rising to the challenge and being able to enjoy the fruits of our labors. We often test ourselves and glory in our success. We can easily convince ourselves that it is all our doing. But all of the "stuff" we work so hard to possess is just stuff. It has entertainment value. It keeps us preoccupied. It is all temporary.

Everything we have is a precious gift from God. The same One who created us provides for our every need. We know what it is to eat our daily bread, to have clothing and shelter, all of the basic necessities of everyday life. God has provided for us in many different ways. Perhaps the most profound means of provision is through the heartfelt gift of another of God's children. Sometimes, we are meant to share from the storehouse of our provision that others may be fed. We are keepers of our brothers and sisters.

As we remember with our loved ones this Thanksgiving season all of the many ways that God has blessed us, may we dare to simply take God at God's word. May we indeed rise to the challenge of putting God to the test. May we return a good portion of what God has entrusted to us that others might enjoy a more secure holiday season.

It would be joyful to see the windows of heaven open and pour down an overflowing blessing on those who need it the most. While the "stuff" we accumulate and assign meaning to will pass quickly away, the relationships formed in ministry will never die. Won't you consider an extra gift that not only will provide for the physical needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ, but will also help to cement an ever stronger relationship between the ministry of Brecksville UMC and those who need our help?

God bless us, everyone.

Pastor Clark

Put Old Glasses to Good Use!



Bring them to the coat room collection bin. Our UMW delivers them to eye doctors who recycle them for those in need!



Fellowship Hour Hosts

November:

Staff Parish Relations

December: Education



Back row: Taylor Kwiatkowski, Sam Eberhardt, Ella Nelson **Front row:** Colin Hamilton, Lauren Scott, Hudson Schneider, Emma Piorkowski, Emily Shijo

Bible Sunday was September 30. On that day, eight of our third grade students received their Bibles. This year's Bible is a brand new children's version with hundreds of informational boxes throughout the text. These text boxes give historical, cultural and geographical information as well as offer practical ways to apply the Bible lesson to contemporary situations.



Southern Hills CROP Hunger Walk

Brecksville, Sept. 30, 2012—Teams from Brecksville United Methodist, Brecksville United Church of Christ, Christ the Redeemer Lutheran, Independence United Methodist, Independence Presbyterian, St. Joseph Byzantine, St. Matthew Episcopal, Triune Lutheran and Bath United Church of Christ joined forces to fight hunger with a two mile walk through the park—the CROP Hunger Walk! Walkers from BUMC raised over one thousand dollars to fight hunger, and combined the walk raised \$5,845! CROP Hunger Walks are community fundraising events sponsored by Church World Service (CWS), an international relief, development, and refugee resettlement agency. Money raised by CROP Hunger Walks nationwide is used by CWS to provide food, medical care, disaster relief, and self-help development for needy people around the world. 25% of the funds raised at our walk benefit the Cleveland Food Bank. Thank you BUMC walkers: Carole Brachna, Cec and Dave Podolny, Dave and Kelly Brown, Melanie Smith and Jim Smith!



When BBHSCD is Closed, BUMC is Closed!

To ensure the safety of our staff and visitors, our church offices will close when the roads get too bad this winter. **When Brecksville Broadview Heights City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, our church offices will close.** Any church events scheduled for that day will be cancelled unless otherwise notified. Tune into the local newscasts for closing information when the weather threatens. Thank you!

Advent DEVOTIONALS

The Brecksville UMC Advent Devotional has become an annual tradition. Written by church members and friends, the devotional is a gift of love to our church family. Devotionals are delivered to the homebound and shared with our congregation.

Advent is the beginning of the church year. It is a season of getting ready for what is to come. Would you like to help us get ready? Write for this year's book!

Devotionals are short and sweet, and will focus on the theme **"A Hole in our Christmas."** Interested in learning more? Contact the church office:

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Or

440-526-8938

Shop for a Cause

UMW would like your help! Shop ACME (Pleasant Valley Shopping Center) at least once before Feb. 9, 2013. If we're able to collect at least \$1,500 worth of receipts, the UMW will get 5% back! Place your receipts in the first floor coatroom box marked ACME. There are posters on the stairwell and in Fellowship Hall explaining the store brands to purchase for credit. With the holidays coming, try shopping at ACME to help the UMW meet our goal. Thank you for your continuous support of our mission projects.





MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

Ed and Sandy Crist welcomed a new grandson to the world on September 25. Zachary Crist was delivered to the loving arms of parents Dan and Wendy Crist.

A new granddaughter has arrived for Chuck & Becky Gezze. Avery Layla Blank was welcomed into the world on Sunday, October 7 by parents Megan and Doug Blank. Avery's great grandmother is Ruby Ludwig.

Steve and Diana Warth are celebrating the birth of their second granddaughter, Savannah Analeigh Jacob, who was born on October 8, 2012, to their daughter and son-in-law Tiffany and Ian Jacob, who reside in Cuyahoga Falls.

Ruby Ludwig thanks everyone for their cards and prayers during her recent surgery. She said, "What a caring group of people! Thank you all!"

Our church lost several members in October. Judy Spraggins, a BUMC member for 59 years, died October 1. Doris Hoyer, a member for 74 years, died October 5. Ray Carlisle, a member for 48 years, died October 11. We mourn with their families, but rejoice in the fact that they are now in the presence of God, as part of the church triumphant.



As You Pray This Month Consider

The elections



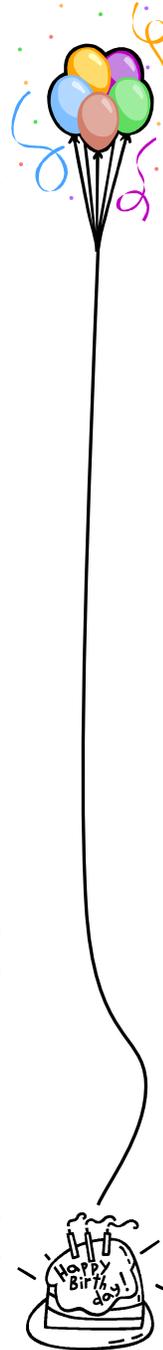
Those traveling for the holidays



The Liberia Mission project

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

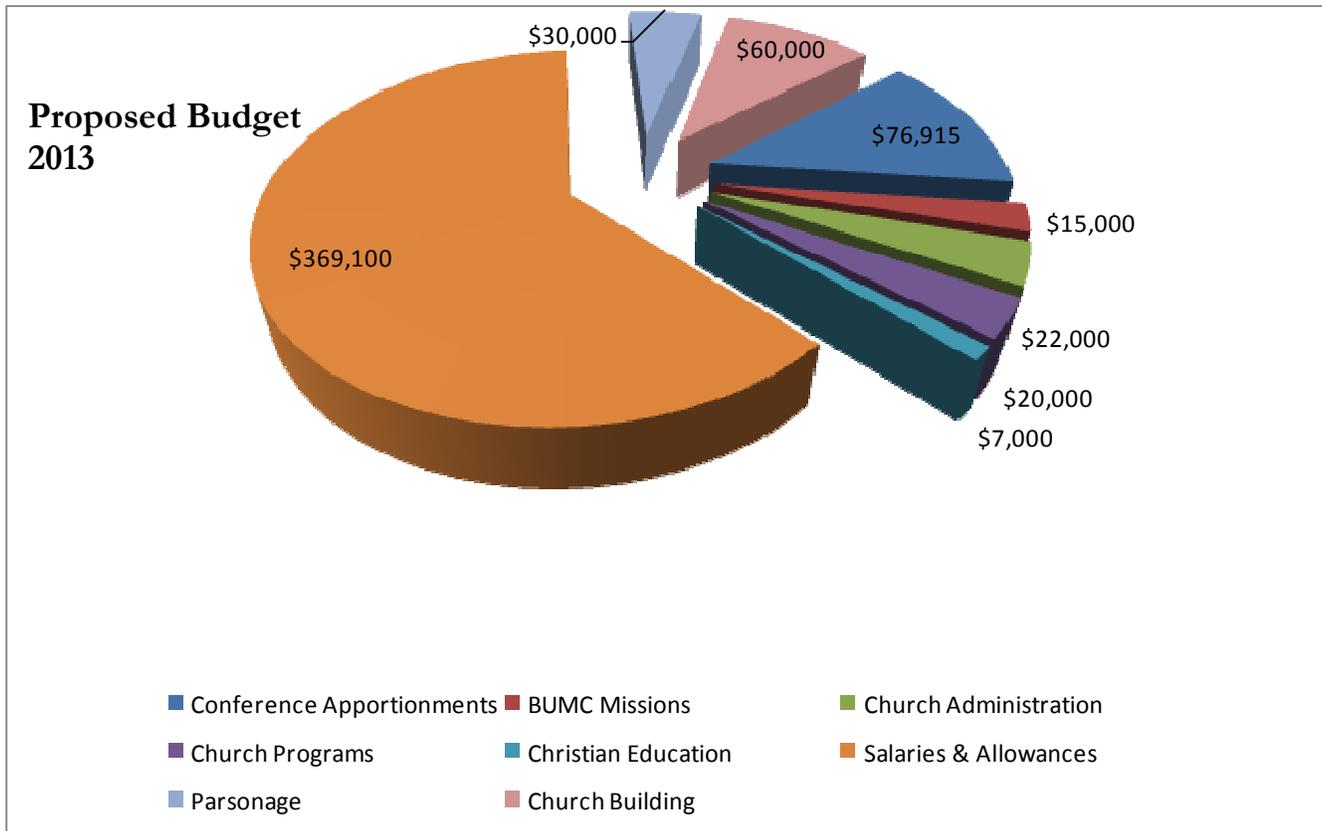
Nancy Einheit	11/01	Gregory Warth	11/14
Karl Riccardi	11/01	Brian Wygonski	11/14
Joyce Wuerth	11/01	Sandra Crist	11/16
James McBride	11/02	Edward Schroedel	11/16
Hayden Vincent	11/02	Michael Gezze	11/17
Tony Cipolla	11/03	Zachary Johnson	11/17
Jim Houston	11/03	James Berry	11/18
Ruth McKenzie	11/03	Shirley Hill	11/19
Alyssa Whitton	11/03	Brandon Klipfell	11/19
Elaine Geringer	11/05	Donald Raybuck	11/19
Ella Nelson	11/05	Diana Wise	11/19
Melissa Schillo	11/05	Carole Brachna	11/20
Brandon Calovini	11/06	Kyle Holmok	11/20
Raymond Koloda	11/06	Lucy Lodge	11/20
Karl Robie	11/06	Ellie Batcheller	11/21
Sean Lundholm	11/07	Matthew Havranek	11/21
Ardyn Olszko	11/07	Richard Ling	11/21
Cathy Drescher	11/08	Ian Roberts	11/21
Brandon Fisher	11/08	Doug Robie	11/21
Darell Fisher	11/08	Kimberly Campbell	11/22
Charlotte Hocutt	11/08	Rebecca Paroda	11/22
Connor Hogan	11/08	Martha Rosenthal	11/22
Allan Filips	11/09	Jennifer Sendrey	11/22
Michele Mihalich	11/10	James Berry	11/25
Bryan Miller	11/10	David James	11/25
Michael Basen	11/11	Deborah Scheufler	11/25
Terry Bennett	11/11	Douglas Farling	11/26
Jan Kaminski	11/11	Kelly Meyer	11/26
Judith McBride	11/11	Adam Archacki	11/28
Laddie Papp	11/11	Gladys Doherty	11/28
Ryan Hulten	11/12	Henry James	11/28
Kevin Vastartis	11/12	Dee Lancaster	11/28
Kelsey Hogan	11/13	Kimberly Ling	11/28
In Hye Jung Allen	11/13	Nicholas Rajkovich	11/28
James Mueller	11/14	Kourtney Ellis	11/29
		Kaitlyn Hazelton	11/29



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. World Communion Sunday was such a blessing and many people shared their special talents during worship. Marisol Wylie shared scripture in Spanish. Scott, Payton and Hudson Schneider shared scripture in American Sign Language. Abby Smith played beautiful music for us on her violin. And drummers from the Native American Center shared their spiritual drumming with us. We also see Mary Kotnik organizing the fall church yard clean up, and Emily and Scotty Hastings stepping in to help with Youth Worship. We are thankful for all of you!

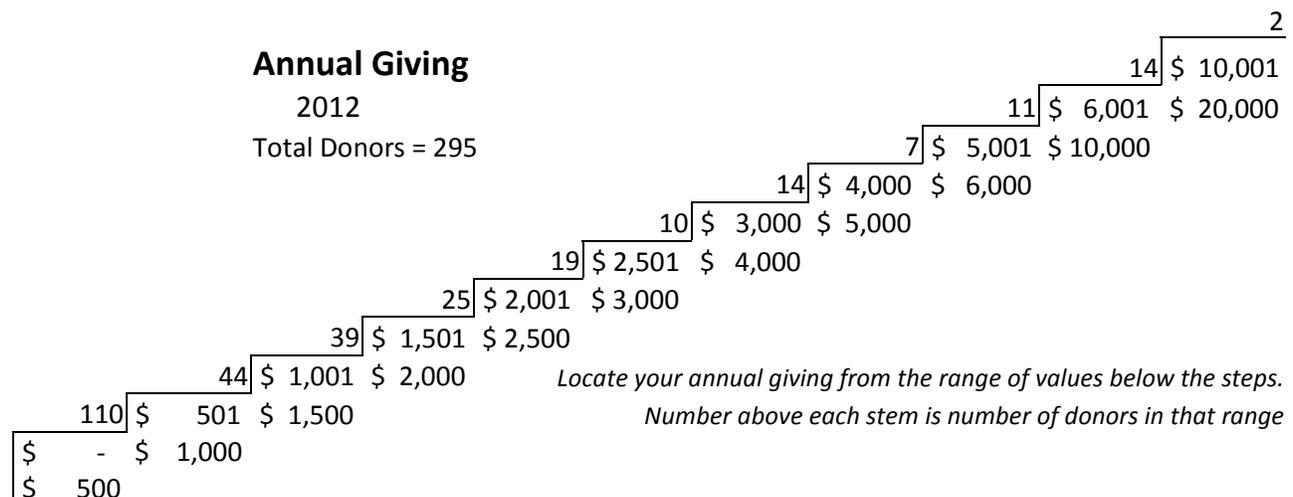
Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off

The 2013 Stewardship Campaign began October 21. We started by looking at our reasonable expectations of expenses for the year, which are **\$600,000**, a 3.4% increase over last year's \$580,000 budget. The chart below shows the distribution of this budgeted amount. By comparison, this year's budget was slightly above \$580,000, and there were some items we had to defer until future years as well as some price increases expected.



In order to meet these expenses, we need to identify our expected revenue for the year. First, we look at the pledges, which provide a fairly solid commitment from our congregation. Some people do not pledge, but are regular donors, which we examine and try to project based on last year's giving records.

The chart below shows the giving pattern for regular givers for 2012. We have excluded visitors, or occasional givers. You can see where you are on this chart of annual giving. It may be helpful for you to in determining your giving for 2013. We hope you will consider making a pledge that will help our church continue to grow





Save The Date!

The Brecksville - Broadview Heights Ministerial Association is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Worship Service Sunday, November 18. As this newsletter went to press, the host church had not been decided. Watch our church website and bulletins for updates!

Fall Yard Clean Up



On Saturday, November 3, from 8 am until 11 am, we'll be raking BUMC 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



Prepared. For Life.™

Cub Scout Pack 649 is looking for a few good boys! A new Cub Scout Pack has formed at the Brecksville United Methodist Church. Boys currently in 1st through 5th grade can join us for the fun. Since 1910 Boy Scout of America have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, good citizenship, and physical fitness in youth. We know that boys don't join Scouting just to get their character built. Boys join because it is fun! Experience it all with your son: camping, hiking, archery, crafts, pine-wood derby, rain gutter regatta and much, much more! Scouting is Fun with a Purpose! For more information contact the Greater Cleveland Council, 2241 Woodland Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115. Attention Scott Johnson at Phone number - 216-458-8905 Web-site - www.gccbsa.org



United Methodist Women

Join us Thursday, November 1

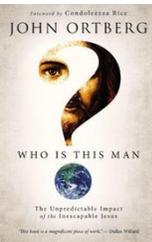
Our meeting needs some "crafty" ladies to help with a Christmas craft project which will be part of our donation to Brookside Head Start children. If you have craft glue and scissors, please bring them! The fun day will start with a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship.

"Thank You!" for Home Days

BUMW gives a "BIG THANK YOU" to all who helped with our Home Days booth. We made \$2,633.24 to support our various missions. BUMW could not have done this without the wonderful cooperation and efforts on the part of many people.

An Invitation from Asbury Bremeth

Join the group on the second Thursday of each month



The ladies of the Asbury Bremeth Circle invite you to join them for faith building and fellowship. We will be starting a new study on November 8 focusing on Jesus. John Ortberg has a brand new video based study titled *Who is this Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus*. Ortberg shows how Jesus' influence has swept over history, bringing inspiration to art, science, government, medicine and education. After centuries; how do Jesus' teachings help lead us toward lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness and hope? Join us for a delicious continental breakfast at 9:30 with the program starting at 10:00.

Church Women United News

- ♦ **World Community Day**, Nov 2nd at 9:30 am at Parma South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Hts, 44130. More details to follow.
- ♦ **Christmas Tea**, Church of the Savior, 2537 Lee Road, Cleveland Hts, 44118. Attendees will be asked to donate as plate of cookies or finger sandwiches (any kind of container is acceptable, as they will plate). Charity drive will also occur. A continental breakfast will be provided. Events are in the dining hall. Cost = \$3.00
- ♦ **USO Cookie collection** will be held in our kitchen with a deadline of Jan 20th.

Have questions? Need details? Call Nancy at 440-838-4341



We've set a new goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. Bring a friend to church or Sunday School!

Date	1st Service Attendance	Sunday School	2nd Service Attendance	Worship Attendance Goal 300	Offering
Sept. 30	147		74	-79	\$6,672
Oct. 7	139	130	93	-68	\$9,997
Oct. 14	130	146	87	-83	\$9,481
Oct. 21	173		104	-23	\$11,692

Children's Worship Sunday



The 1st through 5th graders did a wonderful job leading us in a meaningful worship service on October 21st. The young leaders gave us insight into the messages taught by Jesus through his parables. Each parable contains a powerful message that still rings true today. Great thanks go out to the teachers and shepherds of the Rotation Sunday School children for all the time and energy they have given throughout the first few months of Sunday School this year. The children also appreciate the warm acceptance of the congregation as they are taking their first steps toward being the worship leaders of tomorrow.



THANKSGIVING MEALS

WSEM at Brookside is currently accepting donations for their Turkey Fund. The fund helps to provide holiday food to those who have no where to go or no money for basic holiday foods—foods that many of us take for granted. Non perishable food items, frozen turkeys & chickens are accepted Monday through Friday from 8 am to 3:30 pm at the back door of the center, off Archwood Ave. Monetary donations may be sent to Brookside Center Attn: Turkey Fund, 3784 Pearl Road, Cleveland Ohio 44109



This Month's Hike Sunday, Nov. 4

2 pm. Let's explore the beauty of early November on a 4.5 mile hike from Red Lock trail-head to the Boston

Store. Part of the hike will be on the towpath ; the rest will be on less frequently used trails winding through autumnal meadows and a deciduous forest. Meet at 2 pm Nov. 4 at Red Lock trail-head, Highland Road, in the Cuyahoga Valley. See you there! Need more info? Please contact Carole Brachna for details: 330-908-2031

**YOUTH
WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS
5:30 - 7:30 PM**

Cantores Cleveland



Comes to BUMC

Saturday, December 1

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 1, at 7:30 pm, when we will be joined by Cantores Cleveland for a two-part concert featuring sacred selections for Advent as well as secular pieces from the early music tradition. This will be a wonderful way to kick off your Advent journey! To learn more about Cantores Cleveland, visit their website at www.cantorescleveland.org.

Hymn Festival

Cleveland and Lorain County Chapters American Guild of organists presents a Hymn Festival of Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving. Organist and composer, John Ferguson. Organ, Massed Choirs, Instruments and readings will be performed. Sunday, November 11 at 4pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 21485 Lorain Road, Fairview Park. For more information contact 440.331.2405.



Staff and Friends Concert

Early Music Traditions

Join us on Saturday, November 3, at 7:30pm, for a unique and relaxed concert featuring our director of music, Joy Parker; organist, Chris Toth; and some of our favorite guest musicians: Robert Anastos, cello; Abby Smith, violin; Craig Kotnik, guitar; and others!

The program will feature a wide variety of music from two continents, focused on early music traditions in Europe and the Southern United States. The first half will include Renaissance and Baroque selections for soprano and continuo as well as Baroque and early Classical selections for solo organ. The second half will bring us across the ocean to discover the music of *Southern Harmony* by William Walker, including some favorite tunes that remain in our modern hymnody.

Come prepared to learn and participate; this will be a wonderful concert for all ages! Contact Joy Parker at 440.526.8938 or music@brecksvilleumc.com for more information. As always, this concert is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected, and a reception will follow the concert in the Parlor. Join us!

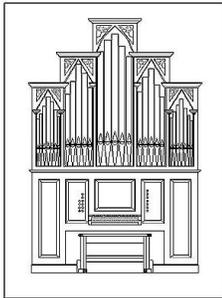


Joy Parker



Chris Toth

Organ News



We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to our Organ Restoration Project! Thanks to all who attended our Tailgate Party! We had a great time. This was a collaborative event between Music Board and Worship Committee which helped us to close the final gap in our fundraising. Over \$400 was raised to help complete this project!

Due to the generosity of the congregation, all electrical parts and materials have been ordered and either have arrived or will be here shortly. Electrical work has begun, and our organ builder, Rick Nelson, has also begun doing some of the off-site woodworking in his shop. We are confident that this project will be completed in time for the Advent season. Stay tuned for information about the dedication of the renovated organ and donor plaque. Some highlights of this project:

- ◆ Our organ will be movable for the first time!
- ◆ Due to your generosity, we will have chimes on the organ!
- ◆ We are very close to being able to purchase a zimbelstern and will continue to explore creative ways to fund this final item on our "wish list"!

A note to our pledge donors: if you are on a monthly pledge schedule, we thank you so much for your faithful giving. For those who made a single amount pledge, we hope to collect those funds by the end of October, as we expect completion of this project to occur sometime in November. Please feel free to call the office if you need to make specific arrangements.

SUNDAY SCHOOL New Classes for adults!

R12 *Living on the Edge: R12* Facilitated by Dave Podolny

R12 is a ten week discipleship series with a DVD portion followed by group discussion. The series is based on Romans chapter 12 and explores how we should live as Christians. The series specifically looks at our relationships with God, other believers and the world according to Paul's teachings in Romans 12.

The series was written by and the DVD is hosted by Chip Ingram, the pastor of Venture Christian Church in Los Gatos, California, and president of Living on the Edge Ministries. You can hear Chip on the Living on the Edge radio program weekdays at 10:30 AM on WCRF, FM 103.3. You can also sample some of the r12 series on line at livingontheedge.org.

FaithLink Facilitated by Craig Czarnota

Join Craig Czarnota for our Sanctuary drop-in class called FaithLink. You will have the opportunity to apply your Christian beliefs to current faith issues and world events as you enjoy reading and discussing timely articles. This class is sure to motivate you to consider your personal views on important contemporary issues. It will also encourage you to act on your beliefs in your everyday living.

Children's Choir Resumes!



If you were in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 21, you had the privilege of seeing a tremendous group of children share two beautiful songs with us. Thank you, **Brenda Calovini**, for taking the time to work with the kids during Sunday School hour in preparation for Children's Worship Sunday.

Now that school is underway, it's time for us to get our Children's Choir going again! We believe that a critical part of our ministry involves raising up the next generation of worshippers and remembering that worship is an absolutely *critical* and *indispensable* part of our life as a church. In Children's Choir, we don't "just sing," and it isn't "just one more activity." We learn about worship, think about the *meaning* of the songs we sing, become comfortable in the Sanctuary, and work to understand what a gift and a privilege it is to lead our church family in praising God.

And we need your kids!

Tuesdays from 5:15 – 6:00, in Room 304.

Contact Joy with questions!

Something to talk about.

<p>Faith Talk - Scripture Discussion: Luke 10: 25-37: Loving others comes with a cost. The Samaritan gave up his time (stopping to help), his expertise (bandaging the man's wounds), his money (paying for the room at the inn), his dignity (climbing down into a ditch for someone who may have spat upon him), and his comfort (allowing the man to ride his donkey in his place). He also placed himself in danger - we know robbers had recently been down that road. That is what love looks like. What cost is associated with loving our less pleasant neighbors at work or school?</p>	<p>Faith Talk—Memories Who are your godparents? How do they show you that you are special? What makes them special?</p>
<p>Faith Talk - Feelings If you saw a friend crying, what would you do?</p>	<p>Faith Talk -- Our Neighbors: It is important to treat people who are of a different race, gender, political or religious background with respect and compassion. Jesus was asked "Who is my neighbor?" and "How should we show love to one another?" As a family ask, who is your neighbor? The answer changes when we focus on Jesus' message. What are some ways you can show compassion to them?</p>

When we talk to our kids, we talk about school. We talk about sports. We talk about safety. We talk about movies and TV shows and friends. But do we talk about faith?

Research clearly shows that parents play the most integral role in their child's faith development. Making time to talk about issues of faith with kids is important, but where do we begin?

Faith Talk Cards are a great place to start! Each week, Jenny and Kyle put together a set of talking points on a handy postcard that's available after Sunday School. (If you miss a Sunday, they're also available online: www.brecksvilleumc.com.) These cards include conversation starters that help kids talk about that Sunday's lessons.

Children need to hear stories of faith from their uncles, aunts, mothers, fathers, grandparents, godparents, sisters, brothers and neighbors. Parents also need to hear the stories of faith that live in the hearts of their children. Faith Talk Cards include some questions to get you talking.

If there's a child in your life, make time to have these Faith Talk discussions—in the car, at the dinner table, at bedtime, whenever you have a few quiet moments together.



The Hat and Mitten Tree will be set up in the Parlor again this year beginning November 25. As always, we will be collecting hats, mittens and scarves for those who need them this winter. The donations will be sent to the Native American Society. There will also be a box under the tree where you can drop off toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste) and socks. Please bring these items to church anytime between November 25 and December 12 or 19th.

Thank you for your generosity!



Saturday, November 24 10 am

The Hanging of the Greens for Advent will start at 10 am on Saturday, November 24th. All adults and youth are invited to help with decorating the sanctuary and building for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

The Greatest Gift to a Stranger

Leslie, Bryan and I have been coming to BUMC for about 15 years. We had never belonged to a church before as a family, but knew that there was something that was missing and that we really needed to find it. That was the beginning of a faith journey that has been a wonderfully fulfilling experience for our family.

Each family—and each individual person—comes to church at a different point in their faith journey. Perhaps your family, like ours, came to BUMC as “first generation” members; perhaps you have lived in the Brecksville area for generations and were part of the church as a child; perhaps you began coming to BUMC after you moved into the area; perhaps you were once a follower of a different faith, but have since converted and have become a member of BUMC. But regardless of how you got here or how far you are in your faith journey, I hope you will agree that our church provides many wonderful things to its members, including:

- ◆ A wonderfully open and welcoming spirit
- ◆ A tremendous music program
- ◆ A passion for missions
- ◆ Christian education programs for adults and children
- ◆ Unquestioned generosity
- ◆ A willingness to challenge ourselves and meet those challenges

Recently, Pastor Clark asked a group of folks from the church how we could challenge ourselves to do more to “serve in love.” Among the many ideas that were spawned from that discussion was this notion: wouldn’t it be great if we would individually share how great our church has been in our lives with friends, family and strangers. (After all, it wouldn’t be very Christ-like to keep such a good thing to ourselves and not share it with others.)



Similarly, what greater impact on the health of BUMC and Christ’s church than to bring in more people, more families, more children, more Christians with more talents, ideas, dedication and more positive influences upon us—and, in turn, we upon them.

So the group and the church staff have proposed a 30 Member Challenge. The goal of the Challenge is for the church to modestly increase membership at BUMC by at least 30 members in 2013. As we enter into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, please consider making a concerted effort to invite others to experience what a wonderful blessing this church is to so many of us.

This, obviously, is a group effort, one that we can accomplish by each of us doing what we collectively do very well. Take the opportunity to invite a friend to a bible study. Join an Agape group. If you see a visitor in church that you have not met, introduce yourself and invite them to “coffee hour.” While you are sharing a cup of coffee, introduce them to other members of our church family. Let them see the many blessings that we already enjoy at BUMC. Show them that they are not just welcome to join us, but that we would love to have them as part of our family. In short, love someone enough to give them the gift of our church family.

- Tim Miller

How do I become a member of Brecksville UMC?

Sometimes we think of membership like being a member of the Auto Club or the Country Club where we pay for services and privileges. Church membership is different. The apostle Paul used the image of a living body: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." ([1 Cor. 12:13](#)) In this biblical sense, to be a member is to be part of a living organism--a vital community animated by the Spirit of God to love and to serve. Paul's statement also points to the inclusiveness of the church: anyone may make the journey into life in the church.

Baptism and membership

You can become a member of the body of Christ, the church, by being baptized into it or by reaffirming your baptism. Baptism is a ritual made up of questions and promises, prayer, and washing. In most United Methodist churches the washing is accomplished by sprinkling. Sometimes it is done by pouring or immersion, but you will choose which way you want to be washed. Youth and adults go through a time of preparation and instruction before they are baptized. In the case of infants and children, the parents receive instruction. In this way they are helped to know God, the meaning of being "members of the body," and what it is they are committing themselves to.

What happens at baptism?

Baptism initiates a covenant of relationship between God and the baptized person and between the church and the person. When you are baptized or affirm your baptism, the congregation enacts God's grace toward you and welcomes you into the community of faith. As a response to God's gracious initiative, you will be asked to pledge your loyalty to the life and ministries of The United Methodist Church and to promise to uphold the local church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service. As a baptized Christian, you will be part of the universal church and part of a particular community of Christians where you are known and watched over in love.

Varied pathways

Since all that seek to be members come with different experiences and backgrounds, there are a number of pathways to follow in becoming a member of The United Methodist Church.

- ◆ If you have never been baptized and you desire to be a Christian with United Methodist Christians, you will prepare for baptism.
- ◆ If you were baptized as an infant or young child and have not made a profession of faith and been confirmed, then you will prepare to reaffirm your baptismal covenant.
- ◆ If you are a member of another part of the church (such as Baptist, Presbyterian or Lutheran), then you will want to prepare to transfer your membership from that church to a local United Methodist Church.
- ◆ If you are a member of another Christian church that does not transfer membership, you will want to prepare to make a profession of faith and be received as a member.

Talk with Pastor Clark about the journey of becoming a Christian and a member of The United Methodist Church. He will be able to answer your questions and help you discern what next steps you want to take.

Adapted and used with permission from www.umc.org.



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

Ric Lesinski

Gretchen Knapp

Janet Biggs

Carol Dambaugh

Kathy Stein

Kim and Gail Meyer

Shelly Meek

**Want to
LEARN
MORE? 30**

YES! I want to learn more about becoming a member of Brecksville United Methodist Church! Tell me about:

New Member Classes

Transferring my Membership

Not ready for membership, but wanting to learn more about the Brecksville UMC family? Check here! _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

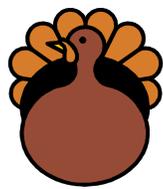
Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Drop this form in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail it to Brecksville UMC, 65 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141. Or e-mail us!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Elaine Geringer and Janet Nelson</p>	 <p>DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 4</p>			<p>1 9:30 UMW 4 Wo. Emm. 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>2 7 Em Reun. 9 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>3 8 Fall Yard Clean Up 10 Russia VIM Meeting 7:30 Staff and Friends Concert </p>
<p>4 All Saints Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship 2 Hiking Club</p>	<p>5 7 Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>6 11 Staff Mtg 5:15 Children's Choir 7 Knitting Group</p>	<p>7 6:30 Dawnbk 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 4 Wo. Emm. 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>9 7 Em Reun. 9 Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>10 2 pm Wedding</p>
<p>11 Veteran's Day Commitment Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship</p>	<p>12 7 Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>13 11 Staff Mtg 5:15 Children's Choir 7 COM 8 Super Tues- day Commit- tee Meetings</p>	<p>14 6:30 Dawnbk 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>15 9:30 History Detectives 4 Wo. Emm. 5 Men's Grp 6 Church & Society 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>16 7 Em Reun. 9 Men's Bible Study</p> 	<p>17</p>
<p>18 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship 12 Pizza with the Pastor 4 Community Thanksgiving Service</p> 	<p>19 7 Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>20 9:30 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch 'n' Time 5:15 Children's Choir 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>21 6:30 Dawnbk 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship 6:30 Cub Scouts 7 SPR 7:30 Choir Newsletter Mails! </p>	 <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>22 Church Offices Closed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24  10 am</p>	<p>25 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship</p>  <p>SUNDAY</p>	<p>26 7 Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>27 9:30 Staff Mtg 5:15 Children's Choir</p>	<p>28 6:30 Dawnbk 4 Youth Quartet 5:30 Youth Worship 6:30 Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29 4 Wo. Emm. 5 Men's Grp 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>30 7 Em Reun. 9 Men's Bible Study 9:30 UMW Board Mtg 6 Cantores Cleveland Rehearsal</p>
<p>1 3 Wedding 7:30 Concert Series: Cantores Cleveland </p>						

This Month's Scripture Focus: Find this month's scriptures on the home page of the church website: www.brecksvilleumc.com

United Methodist News

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

Pro Wrestling Deacon of Doom

SALT LAKE CITY (UMNS) — The Rev. Brian Diggs pounds people by night and preaches by day. Talk about an “altar ego.” He’s a minister who brings God’s message to the mat as professional wrestler Deacon of Doom. “You know, one of the things I always say is that the wrong question to be asking is ‘How do we make Jesus relevant to people?’ In fact, I think we should turn that upside down and we should say, ‘How do we make ourselves relevant to Jesus?’” Watch a video about Diggs at <http://goo.gl/3Ar0g>.

First Thursday prayer and fast

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — First Thursday, an invitation to clergy and laity to join the cabinet in a monthly day of prayer and fasting to call upon Christ to send the Pentecost power of the Holy Spirit upon the church, was introduced at the 2010 annual conference by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference cabinet. To learn more, visit the Illinois Great Rivers website at igrc.org.

Dad, daughter complete seminary

OKLAHOMA CITY — A joyous crowd overflowed the Church of the Servant’s Chapel of the Cross, on Aug. 24, as six people received master of divinity degrees from the Saint Paul School of Theology, the United Methodist seminary at Oklahoma City University. In that audience was 6-year-old Aidan, whose mother, Tiffany Nagel, and grandfather, Alan Nagel, were two of the graduates.

United Methodists in two big Habitat builds

ANTIOCH, Tenn. — For four weekends, volunteers have been meeting at a Nashville-area subdivision in the early morning for prayer and safety training, followed by hours of hard work. Members of 14 United Methodist congregations have joined in an area-wide United Methodist Build and an interfaith Unity Build to construct Habitat for Humanity homes.

Ignite church outreach efforts

CORRY, Pa. — Rethink Church, part of United Methodist Communications, will sponsor a Fall 2012 Ignite event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 27 at First United Methodist Church in Corry. The event, which includes workshops and breakout sessions, aims to help church outreach efforts using traditional and digital tools and techniques. Registration costs \$25 by Oct. 14 and \$35 after. The event offers five continuing education units. Learn more at wpaumc.org/events.

N.C. churches benefit from ‘labor of love’

MAXTON, N.C. — The United Methodist congregation in Maxton, a farming community of several thousand, was in a bind. Its historic building — one of the first built for an African-American congregation — was in such disrepair that it already had been condemned. The congregation got the help it needed from the North Carolina Annual (regional) Conference’s unusual construction ministry. Read the story at umns.umc.org.

Reach out on Veterans Day

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nov. 11 is coming, and now is the perfect time for congregations to engage in ministry with veterans, active troops and the families. The United Methodist Church offers many spiritual resources for veterans and their families to use year-round as well as on Veterans Day. To learn about those resources and to read about what others are doing, see Ministry with Those who Serve at umc.org/military.

Dan Terry story to air on ABC

NEW YORK — The story of United Methodist Dan Terry, who was among 10 humanitarian aid workers assassinated in Afghanistan in August 2010, will air between Oct. 21 and Dec. 16 on participating ABC stations. “Weaving Life: The Life and Death of Peacemaker Dan Terry,” shows how Terry set out to build bridges where “everyone else was blowing them up,” says production consultant and storyteller Jonathan Larson. To find the stations that are broadcasting the show, check on interfaithbroadcasting.com and check your ABC listings.

United Methodists fight malaria in Angola

LUANDA, Angola — Residents of Bom Jesus, Angola are receiving 9,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help protect them from malaria. The distribution began Oct. 12. The nets are delivered house-to-house by community educators, a delegation of United Methodists from the United States and the West Angola United Methodist Church. To find out more about what United Methodists do to fight malaria, go to imagineinomalibia.org.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>