

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

The Good Word



DECEMBER ISSUE

NOVEMBER 21, 2012

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

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

Advent Worship - The Hole in our Christmas

During the Advent season we anticipate Christ's coming into the world. But why must we wait? And *how* should we wait?

Earlier this year, we participated in a church-wide study, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, which reminded us that the "good news" of Jesus Christ is more than a private transaction between God and us. We were challenged to answer this question: What does God expect of us?

Now we turn our eyes toward Christmas and we ask: how do we remain responsive and faithful to our calling as followers of Christ even as we face the demands and expectations of the holidays?

Two thousand years ago, a baby changed the world.

We believe it's happening again.

Join us:

*Wednesday, December 12
at 7:30pm*

*A community meal will be served at
6:00 in Fellowship Hall.*

All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Celebrate the Season!

Advent Worship, Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Services

5 pm Family Service

8 and 10 pm Candlelight Services

Christmas Music Sunday, December 23: 8:45 and 11:15 am

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 30

One Worship Service at 10 am





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



Drawing a Picture of God

Comments from Rev. Clark Stein

*....Forget about what's happened;
 don't keep going over old history.
 Be alert, be present.*

I'm about to do something brand-new.... Isaiah 43:19

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This month holds wonderful promise for us. We hear once again the old, old story of God's love for us revealed in the birth of Jesus, and at months very end, we welcome in yet another New Year. Both of these celebrations are ripe with potential. Both celebrations are places we have visited before, and will visit again, God willing. Yet, each time we "go there" are we simply repeating the rituals of years past, or do we honestly anticipate something new? God's promise that God is about to do a new thing is as real for us as it was in Isaiah's time and in Jesus' time. God wants us to perceive the new thing. God is ready, waiting for our eyes to open, our ears to tingle, our noses to sniff, and our hands to touch. Are we able to enter this time together with a sense of anticipation? Do we have a sense that we will be met here like we've never been met before?

A little boy was working hard on a drawing and his daddy asked him what he was doing. The reply came back, "Drawing a picture of God." His daddy said, "You can't do that, honey. Nobody knows what God looks like." But the little boy was undeterred and continued to draw. He looked at his picture with satisfaction and said very matter-of-factly, "They will in a few minutes!"

As we approach this Christmas, may we do so with anticipation and wonder. God continues to draw, and rather than being certain we know what the picture looks like, maybe we just need to anticipate it's unveiling. The same holds true for the New Year. We certainly don't know what is in store for each and every one of us. But, we can be certain that whatever it is, we can anticipate God's presence and care, God's knowledge of us and where we are. It's hard sometimes to just enjoy the gift of the day. Yet in all of the hustle and bustle, in this time of new beginnings and time honored rituals and traditions, I pray you will anticipate something new. I pray you will find life revealed before you in new ways. I pray those revelations will linger and fuel your wonder and awe of the incredible God we worship. I pray that you will come to know that you are noticed, and that you can continue to be met in new and exciting ways.

Keeping watch,

Pastor Clark



Our UMW supports the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky by collecting Campbell's Labels for Education. Clip the "Labels for Education" Symbol from Campbells products and bring them to the collection bin in the coat room. More info: www.labelsforeducation.com



Fellowship Hour Hosts

December: Education
January: Youth Board
February: Music Board



Advent Schedule

Check out the words of this year's Advent Wreath carol, found at #2092 in *The Faith We Sing Hymnal*. *Like a Child* reminds us that during the Advent season, we are waiting for Jesus, and a big part of waiting is learning to see Jesus in unexpected people and places. We will be singing a verse of the carol each week as we light the Advent Wreath, but you can familiarize yourself with the song ahead of time by visiting our website.

Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent

This morning, we will light the first candle in the Advent Wreath, the candle of Hope. We will ask: do we have real *hope*, a hope that still believes Christ is coming? How could we fill a hole in our Christmas by becoming people of great *hope*? We will be joined in worship by guest preacher, Rev. Kathy Dickriede, regular missionary to Camphor Mission in Liberia. Chancel Choir will sing at 11:15, and our newly renovated organ is expected to be ready for worship! Handbells will also be ringing this morning!

Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent

This morning, we will light the second candle in the Advent Wreath, the candle of Love. We will ask: do we have passionate *love* for a world that still needs to see Jesus born into their midst? How could we fill a hole in our Christmas by becoming people of deep and abiding *love*? This morning, we will hear from our Children's Chorus at both services; Chancel Choir will sing at 11:15.

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

This morning, we will light the third candle in the Advent Wreath, the candle of Joy. We will ask: what things rob us of our spiritual *joy*? How could we fill a hole in our Christmas by becoming truly *joyful* people? Joy (Fenton) Parker will be sharing the sermon this morning; Chancel Choir will sing at 11:15.

Sunday, Dec. 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Music Sunday

This morning, we will light the fourth candle in the Advent Wreath, the candle of Peace. We will ask: how do we find *peace* in a busy, demanding world? How could we fill a hole in our Christmas by learning to rest in God, to find *peace*? Hear Pastor Clark preach at both services, music will also be shared by Chancel Choir, Women's & Men's Ensembles, and our Youth Quartet.

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- ◆ Family worship at 5:00 will include a Christmas pageant, music from our Children's Choir and candle lighting.
- ◆ Candlelight Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 will include the Christmas story, retold in all its wonder with Bible passages, choir, handbell and organ music, and the lighting of the Christ Candle.

Sunday, December 30 – Christmas Carol Sunday

We will share one worship service at 10:00 am with the singing of many of our favorite Christmas carols and a message from Pastor Clark.

Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany Sunday

At the darkest time of year, Christians celebrate the light of Christ! Services will return to their 8:45 and 11:15 times, but there will be no adult education programs on this day; adults will enjoy a time of extended coffee and fellowship. Stay tuned for a special Sunday school activity for children and youth.



Help deliver poinsettias to those who are home bound or unable to come to services. Delivery after December 24. Contact Gretchen Mates to volunteer: 440-526-6481.



United Methodist Women

The UMW's Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon will be held Thursday, December

6 at 11:30 am in the church parlor. As in previous years, Asbury Bremeth Circle will be hosting. Christmas music by Joy Parker will help get everyone in the holiday mood. Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share. A donation of men's underwear or socks in any size will be collected for the Brookside Resale Store. The need is great for men's clothing. There is a Brookside donation box in the coatroom.



This Month's Hike

Sunday, Sunday Dec. 2:

Let's meet at the Brecksville Nature Center at 2 p.m. and explore the park's rolling hills with a lovely four mile hike!

RSVP, if possible, so we can plan for hot cocoa and cookies. (You'll want both after walking these hills!) Contact Carole Brachna: 330-908-2031.



Pick up your new Offering Envelopes beginning Sunday, Dec. 2.

If you'd like a set of offering envelopes, contact the church office!



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

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

The Vastartis family is growing! Alex has announced his engagement to Jessica Rohs. The couple is planning a summer wedding. Congratulations!

Nancy Knowlton's recovery is going well. She said, "The power of prayer (and lovely greeting cards) is amazing. Thanks you to all who sent me get well wishes."

Cec Podolny would like to extend a hearty congratulations and a big thank you to the congregation for stepping forward to fill the usher schedule through the end of the year. Thank you for helping to make our church a welcoming place! If you'd like to volunteer to usher in January or beyond, we need you! Please contact the church office for details: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com.

At this time of the year, many members of our church family are traveling. If you're returning home from someplace near or far, welcome back! We missed you! If you're setting off for milder climates, please don't forget to update your mailing address with the church office.



As You Pray This Month Consider

Those who are away from home.

~

Those who lost loved ones this year.

~

Those who are going without.

~

Those who are traveling.



Allen	McCrodden	12/01	Trinity	Crouch	12/13
Susan	Ellenberger	12/02	Kiira	Olszko	12/13
Chris	Toth	12/02	Shirley	Harper	12/14
Marisol	Wylie	12/02	Sydney	Hazelton	12/15
Ronelle	Rajkovich	12/03	Ruth	Moorhead	12/15
Edward	Crist	12/04	Hannah	Stein	12/15
Diane	Ellis	12/04	Dale	Meyer	12/16
Nicholas	Mihalich	12/04	Elinor	Rowan	12/17
Kendall	Lancaster	12/05	Carol	Wilson	12/18
Bruce	McCrodden	12/06	Jeffrey	Fesler	12/19
Michael	Memmer	12/06	J. Donald	Moorhead	12/19
Kaitlynn	Pasek	12/06	Nathan	Petznick	12/19
Karen	Schroedel	12/06	John	Zupanc	12/19
Brenda	Calovini	12/07	Hudson	Schneider	12/20
Katherine	Tyler	12/07	Megan	Louttit	12/21
Rachel	Dubin	12/08	Adam	Derry	12/22
Allison	Loughner	12/08	Anna	Derry	12/22
Richard	Gordon	12/09	Bryan	Derry	12/22
Charles	Helm	12/09	Amanda	Auble	12/23
Joyce	Johnson	12/09	Pam	Papp	12/24
Daniel	Soltis	12/09	David	Urdzik	12/24
Josh	Kesling	12/10	Anastasia	Brachna	12/28
Joan	Quade	12/10	David	Brown	12/28
Scott	Schneider	12/10	Christine	Drescher	12/29
David	Schroedel	12/10	Sylvia	Fowler	12/29
Barbara	Berry	12/11	Brandon	Schroedel	12/29
Amy	Piorkowski	12/11	Mary Lou	Bennett	12/30
Gregory	Urso	12/11	Darell	Fisher	12/30
Frank	Bambic	12/12	Sharon	Hotaling	12/30
Mitchell	Bell	12/12	Robert	Jaite	12/30
Penelope	Burns	12/12	Zachary	Johnson	12/30
Steve	Piorkowski	12/12	Connor	Hulten	12/31
Doug	Ritterbusch	12/12	John	Scott	12/31

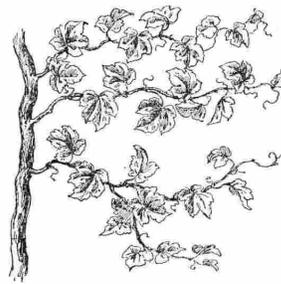


As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we have recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Bev Huber and Kay Mendlik's talent with photography is shared in these pages and on the projection screens on Sundays; Ben Magistro makes everyone welcome from the moment they arrive in the church parking lot on Sunday mornings; Alison Bell and Shelly Meek stepped in at a moment's notice when needed in the nursery. We are thankful for you!



Stewardship Campaign Update

I am the vine,
and you are the branches.
John 15:5



We observed Commitment Sunday on November 10. As of November 19, we have received 123 pledges totaling \$306,844 to meet our 2013 budget. Last year we received 169 pledges for a total of \$417,366 during the entire Stewardship campaign. So we are on our way. You can watch the progress of the pledging from our vine and branches displays. Although we are hoping to fund a budget of \$600,000 for 2013, not all our revenue is from pledges. A large portion of our revenue will come from regular givers who have not pledged, as well as anonymous givers, interest income, rental of the church for weddings, meetings, and various events. But the pledged amount is a very important part of our budget, as that is the expected revenue on which we base our spending plan. We are hoping that you will submit your confidential pledge to help us plan the growth we expect for 2013.

- Les Buttolph

Your commitment of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness is a priceless gift.

How will you be the hands and feet of Christ in the coming year?

Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the altar and chancel area Sundays, December 16 and 23 and Christmas Eve. Order your plants in honor and in memory of loved ones or to the glory of God. Some plants will be delivered as an act of caring after Christmas. If you would care to deliver a plant, please contact the church office.

To Order:

- Fill out this order form, printing clearly.
- Indicate whether you wish to pickup or have the plant delivered to a home-bound person.
- Attach cash or a check for \$7.50 per plant —payable to BUMC.
- Return to the church office or place in the offering plate no later than Monday, December 3.

**Deadline for orders is
Monday, December 3.
No orders can be honored
after that date.**



_____ Red # _____ White @ 7.50 a plant

_____ Pick up after Christmas worship

_____ Deliver to someone for me

_____ I would like to deliver a plant.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

To the glory of God _____

Drop in the offering plate, bring to the church office, or mail to:
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our 2012 Christmas Offering will go to Emergency Relief supporting local, national and international efforts. **Locally**, we'll support **Providence House** offering emergency shelter and care to babies and young children in Greater Cleveland. **Nationally**, we'll support **Hurricane Sandy Relief on the East Coast**. The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) was there to help immediately. UMCOR is often one of the first aid organizations into a disaster, and one of the last ones to leave. **Internationally**, we'll support **Hurricane Sandy Relief in Haiti**. Devastated by the earthquake in 2010. Drowned by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. UMCOR is providing emergency aid to the poorest country in our hemisphere, relief to the desperate people of Haiti.

PAJAMA PROGRAM

Ten years ago, one New York woman noticed children in orphanages and foster children sleeping in their clothes because they didn't own even one pair of pajamas. She filled a shopping bag with new sleepwear and books and began to hand them out to the youngsters. Thus the beginning of the Pajama Project. Mrs. Jagielo's 4th grade class (Helen Lee, Carly Kubek, and Elyse Hensley, three of our children) and our congregation are being asked to participate in this exciting program. Please consider donating a pair of new pajamas and/or a new book by Friday, December 7. There will be a box set up in the coat room marked "Pajama Program". For more information, visit www.pajamaprogram.org.



WOMEN IN NEED

The Brecksville United Methodist Women are asking for your help in supporting the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center of Cleveland. They are in need of gift cards to Giant Eagle or Target (\$10 or higher) and necessities from the following list: deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, soap, body wash, underwear, socks, pajamas, diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, baby lotion, baby powder, and twin bedding. Donations accepted through Thursday, December 13. Please bring gift cards to the church office and drop other items in the collection bin in the coat room. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for those in need!

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

- 2 Corinthians 8:7

HAT AND MITTEN TREE

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 19.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT & COAT DRIVE

As snow begins to fall, the American Indian Education Center of Cleveland is in need of child and youth sized coats, boots, shoes, and winter gear. If you have gently used items that would fit toddlers to sixteen-year-olds please contact Les Buttolph or Kyle Allen. The center is also hosting a Christmas party December 16 and is seeking new gifts for the community's tweens and teens, in particular sports equipment (boys) and jewelry kits/makeup kits (girls) or gift cards. Please contact Kyle or Les (finance@brecksvilleumc.com) for more information or if you would like to make a monetary donation. Wrapping paper is also a critical need. Donations of wrapping paper would be an extra glitter for their Christmas!

BLOOD DRIVE

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. BUMC is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 11 from 2-6 pm. Please join in our mission to maintain a safe and stable blood supply. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor, a person like you, who makes the choice to donate. The need is constant. Give Blood this holiday season. The gift that continually gives life. Call 866-236-3276 for more information!

Why Wait?



Experiencing Advent through music .

Do you love Christmas Carols?? Christmas carols tap into some of the most meaningful and personal experiences of our lives to remind us how precious and powerful it is that Jesus came into the world as he did. Of all our hymns, these songs speak most directly about infants and children, about the vulnerability of a baby and about the precious love of a mother for her child. Some of our most jubilant texts are found in Christmas carols. We sing about angels flooding the sky with their song. We sing about dazzling heavenly light. And we rejoice! It is no wonder that many of us would be happy to sing these wonderful songs as much as we possibly can!

Advent carols have a different focus. They remind us that our task during these weeks of Advent is to watch and do what we just hate to do: WAIT. But why wait? Why not just jump in and start singing *Away in a Manger* in November? After all, the Christmas decorations have all shown up in stores and Majic 105.7 will start playing “all Christmas music all the time” any day now! Why do *we* have to wait?

Some of the greatest gifts we receive are made even more special by the fact that we must wait for them. Imagine the mixed emotions that Mary and Joseph felt as they walked the long, uncertain road leading up to the birth of their precious child. They had to wait. For the people of Israel, generation upon generation passed while they continued to hope for a Savior. They endured wilderness and exile; they had to wait a *long* time. Even for us, the anticipation of time together with family and the opportunity to freely express our love and generosity toward one another is something we wait eagerly for throughout the year! There is power in watching and waiting just as there is power in seeing our hopes and wishes fulfilled.

This year, we will join together in joyfully singing the great carols of both Advent and Christmas (when the time comes). It is my hope that as we wait together, eyes turned east, watching for the star, you might experience a new joy in waiting! - Joy Parker, Director of Music Ministry

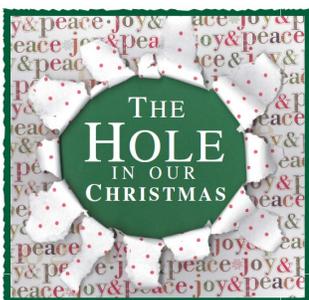
Faith & Family Night



The Youth night out to Quicken Loans Arena was a whole lot of fun. 42 BUMC folks, kids and their family members, made the trip downtown to enjoy a Lake Erie Monsters game. Photos from the evening are available here: <http://sdrv.ms/UdhmHV>

Advent Devotional Available

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, shared with our congregation, and available for visitors. Pick up your copy at church! They will be available on December 2 (the first Sunday in Advent) and online at: www.brecksvilleumc.com



Organ Update

(Pardon our Dust)



We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to our Organ Restoration Project! Thank you to all who have mailed in your pledges since our last update. As of this writing, we have raised enough money to complete the fundamental electrical work required as well as all of the “extras” for which we had hoped! Our organ builder, Rick Nelson, has been hard at work on the internal electrical workings of the organ and by the time you read this article much of the work will actually be complete.

Though the organ was out of commission on Sundays, November 18 and 25, the entire project will be complete in time to premier our new and improved organ during the Advent season. Please also watch *The Good Word* and announcements for our organ rededication, which will happen early in the New Year. We will also dedicate our donor plaque, the final element of this special project. Thank you again for your tremendous generosity!



Above, before restoration work began. Below, work in progress





Introducing our Next All-Church Study: *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom*

Why did Jesus happen when he happened? Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus -- Divine, Son of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World -- taken from a Roman emperor on the Palatine hill and given to a Jewish peasant on the Palestine plain? What were the priorities of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom?

First Light is a 12-session DVD and web-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem.

First Light will run on Sundays beginning January 13 and running through Lent, with our final session on March 24. Pastor Clark Stein and Joy Parker will co-facilitate this study.



Youth Worship Wednesdays

This week, 15 youth came to eat, laugh, talk - and learn about and worship Jesus! We got to know each other over dinner (homemade chicken tenders!) then shared our expectations for today and for 2013. All of this was setting the stage for understanding Jesus -- His historical context, Jewish roots, and opposition on earth. It was a great night. Praise God also for the new faces who joined us!

*Cantores Cleveland:
Welcoming the Advent Season...
and Secular Favorites from the Repertoire*

Saturday, December 1, 2012, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
Free & open to the public.

Come hear the sounds of the Advent season as Cantores Cleveland sings a program featuring both Advent choral music and secular favorites. This will be a fun, light-hearted concert for the whole family! Reception to follow in the Parlor.

Brecksville Center for the Arts
Community Chorus and Youth Chorus

Annual Christmas Concert

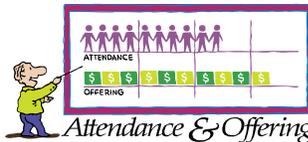
On Sunday, December 16, the Brecksville Community Chorus and Youth Chorus will return to our Sanctuary at 4:00pm for their annual Christmas Concert. Under the direction of Joy (Fenton) Parker, both choruses will offer a blend of sacred and secular music representing a broad range of styles.

The first half of the program will feature *Messiah, Part I*, including organ accompaniment and soloists! *Don't miss this wonderful holiday tradition!* A free will offering will be collected, and a reception will follow the concert in Fellowship Hall.

The New Year holds so much wonderful music at BUMC. Look for great concerts and events in 2013! Mark your calendar for...
Saturday, January 26, 7:30pm

An Evening of Jazz: Josh Rzepka, trumpet & Jackie Warren, piano

Warm up a cold winter night with some cool jazz...



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
Oct. 28	116	100	108	-76	\$5,190
Nov. 4	159	100	79	-62	\$12,270
Nov. 11	165	142	85	-50	\$13,668
Nov. 18	146	141	109	-45	\$11,298

'Tis The Season to Roll Out The Welcome Mat!



“Hi! I’m Mariah. I’m new here.” That’s how my 8-year-old niece boldly introduced herself to the pastor of a church we visited one Christmas Eve.

Most of us don’t feel that brave, especially when worshipping during the holidays with an unfamiliar congregation. Some church members seem so engrossed in catching up with their family and friends that visitors end up feeling like part of the décor.

For some people, Christmas and Easter are the only times they go to church. Visitors seeking a church to call home—even a temporary home— want to feel welcomed. They want to feel needed and to gain a sense of belonging to the community. That is why it is critical for each of us to reach out to newcomers here!

Truly welcoming visitors and future congregants requires more than a sign or mat with the word “welcome.” Here are a few welcoming activities and tips:

1. **Circle of 10.** Greet anyone who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet people you do not already know.
2. **Rule of three.** During the first three minutes after the service, talk to people whom you do not know or who are guests. Why three minutes? That is the average time it takes guests to exit after worship, so it is important to connect before they depart.
3. **“Hello! I’m...”** Worried that you might mistake a regular attender with a guest? Why not introduce yourself to *everyone* - even folks you already know? It will be a fun conversation starter!
4. **Show attentiveness and warmth** to those sitting near you — making sure each person has a hymnal, a bulletin, enough room, or a friendly word of guidance about where to turn in the hymnal.
5. **Connection Cards** are located in the seat back pockets in the pews. If a visitor would like more information encourage them to fill one out so we can follow up with them.
6. **Love all the people** just because they are there for this time, this holy night. Forget about wondering and worrying about whether or not they will come back.

Be inviting out in the world. There are wonderful worship services, great education classes and wonderful fellowship opportunities here, but walking into a building or a room where you don't know anyone can be daunting. Help them get through the door. Invite others to attend with you!

At some point, each of us was a stranger to the faith. We are here now because someone welcomed us and made us feel we belonged: a parent, a friend, a pastor, a spouse, or a stranger. Jesus said, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” and “just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25: 35 and 40) Keep these words in your heart!

- adapted and used by permission from www.umc.org

In November, we launched the 30 New 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 Christmas holiday season, please consider making a concerted effort to invite others to experience what a wonderful blessing this church is to so many of us.



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: _____

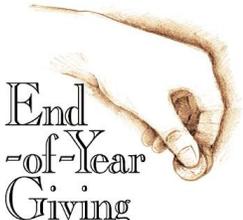
Telephone: _____

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

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Dave & Cec Podolny	<i>For the latest news, updates, and weekly scriptures Please visit the church website www.brecksvilleumc.com</i>					1 3:30 Wedding 7:30 Concert: Cantores Cleveland
2 1st Sunday <i>in Advent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship 2 Hiking Club 4 Christmas Parade	3 7 Bible Study	4 11 Staff Mtg. 5:15 Chil- dren's Choir 7 Knitting 7 SPR 7:30 Gifts & Memorials	5 6:30 Dwnbrkr 4 Youth Quar- tet 5:30 Youth Worship & Study	6 11 UMW Christmas Program 4 Wo. Emma. 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	7 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study 7 BUMC Staff Christ- mas Party	8 6 Chapel Service at Chippewa Place
9 2nd Sunday <i>in Advent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship	10 7 Bible Study	11 11 Staff Mtg. 2 Blood Drive 5:15 Chil- dren's Choir 7 COM 8 Committee Mtgs	12 6:30 Dwnbrkr 4 Youth Qrtet 6 Soup Supper 7:30 Advent Worship	13 4 Wo. Emma. 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	14 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study 3:30 Poinset- tia Set Up	
16 3rd Sun- <i>day in Advent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship 4 BCA Chorus Concert	17 7 Bible Study	18 10 Knitting 11 Staff Mtg. 5:15 Chil- dren's Choir 7 Knitting 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees	19 6:30 Dwnbrkr 4 Youth Qrtet 5:30 Youth Worship 7 SPR?	20 10 History Club 4 Wo. Emma. 5 Men's Grp 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	21 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study 	22
23 4th Sunday <i>in Advent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Education 11:15 Worship 6 Music Dept. Party	 24 5 Family Svc. 8 & 10 Candlelight Service <i>Office Closes at Noon</i>	 25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26 6:30 Dwnbrkr	27 4 Wo. Emma. 5 Men's Grp	28 7 Emmaus 9 Men's Bible Study <i>Good Word Mails!</i> 	29
30 10 Lessons & Carols, One Worship Ser- vice Today!	 31 A HAPPY NEW YEAR Church Offices close at noon	 End of-Year Giving		To qualify for the 2012 tax year, all contributions must be received by 11 am on December 31 or be postmarked by December 31.		\$1 Week Campaign  <p>As of Nov. 16, we have collected \$5,706 for our Liberia School building fund. Our goal is \$24,000.</p>

United Methodist News

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

‘Chuck knows Church’ video series

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — “Chuck Knows Church” is a new weekly online video series explaining the objects, symbols and terms used in church. The series is produced by the United Methodist Board of Discipleship office of communications and worship resource team, in collaboration with the United Methodist Publishing House and United Methodist Communications. The series “was developed to invite church and nominally church people to understand the ‘stuff’ we see and do in church,” said the Rev. Karen Greenwaldt, Discipleship’s top executive. The videos can be posted on church and conference websites and are suitable for small groups. Visit:

www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

Detroit building readied for homeless

DETROIT — Homeless men and women will have a safe place to call home, the Detroit News reports, when work on a gutted 1920s-era apartment building results in the 41-unit Arthur Antisdel Apartments permanent housing development. The project is part of the effort of Cass Community Services, a United Methodist congregation and community service program, to help some of the estimated 19,000 homeless in Detroit.

All Cokesbury stores to close

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The United Methodist Publishing House board has decided to close all of its 57 Cokesbury brick-and-mortar stores — including 19 seminary stores — by April 30, 2013. The closures will affect about 285 full-time and part-time employees. “Having the stores close and the staff leave is wrenching and deeply disappointing,” said Neil Alexander, United Methodist Publishing House president and publisher. “But as painful as it is, it is also financially and practically necessary.” Cokesbury will redirect resources. Learn more at CokesburyNext.com.

Non-traditional worship can come with fries

LANSING, Mich. — You know you’re in a non-traditional worship setting when you overhear the words, “Do you want fries with that?” Chances are, it’s Monday night and you’re at Grumpy’s Diner, a new community of faith birthed out of Sycamore Creek United Methodist Church. If you go to their church website, reports Kay DeMoss of the West Michigan Conference, it becomes clear: “One church in multiple locations.” Learn more at westmichiganconference.org/news under the headline “21st century circuit rider shares.”

Quilts of love for Congo ministry

KETTERING, Ohio — The congregation at Christ United Methodist Church, Kettering, Ohio, knows how it feels to be wrapped up in a “God-size” dream and see it come true. The church raised \$117,000 and helped tip the scales to buy a new plane for an aviation ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. But money wasn’t enough; they wanted something more personal. At a special service in May, every woman, man and child in church that day held a nine-inch square of cloth in his or her hands and prayed over it. Those cloths were sewn into quilts that will be shipped to the Congo to bring comfort to sick and suffering people.

N.J. now open to early response teams

OCEAN, N.J. — United Methodists in New Jersey are receiving their first out-of-state “early response teams” to assist in the Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts. Early Response Teams interested in coming to New Jersey should send an email to DisasterResponse@gnjumc.org that lists name and contact information, church, annual conference, team size and dates available to respond.

Jellyfish in the living room?

FREEPORT, N.Y. — As if the destruction wrought by Hurricane Sandy weren’t already overwhelming in the storm’s wake, Leroy Morgan of Freeport found himself faced with another astonishing and wholly unexpected phenomenon: jellyfish in his living room. “It’s gotta be funny,” he said. “We were actually stepping on jellyfish!” Relief workers from the United Methodist Committee on Relief are helping Morgan and others on the Long Island coast recovering from Sandy’s flooding.

N.J. church sign points way to storm relief

DRAKESTOWN, N.J. — Like many other churches in the denomination’s Greater New Jersey Annual (regional) Conference that were lucky enough to sustain power after the storm, Drakestown United Methodist opened its doors to the community. And the church’s newly installed electronic sign helped light the way for those in need.



Working to keep you connected

<http://umns.umc.org>