

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church

# The Good Word



FEBRUARY ISSUE

PUBLISHED JANUARY 28, 2013

65 Public Square  
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

440-526-8938

*Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.*



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

Enjoy an evening of great music!  
**BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Tickets on sale in the church office or online  
at [www.thesteelwheels.eventbrite.com](http://www.thesteelwheels.eventbrite.com)

Details: [WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM](http://WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM)  
Phone: 440-526-8938



**HEAR THE MUSIC!**

**TICKETS**

**\$10**

*"Americana, made by hand."*

- NPR Music

[www.thesteelwheels.com](http://www.thesteelwheels.com)

**OPEN DOORS:**  
welcoming ALL of  
God's children. no  
matter what.

Reconciling Ministries Network is a growing movement of United Methodist individuals, congregations, campus ministries, and other groups working for the full participation of all people in The United Methodist Church. But what does that mean for Brecksville United Methodist Church? We invite you to learn more at a guest speaker series during the Adult Education Hour (10:00 – 11:00am) on Sundays, February 16 & 23, and March 2. Youth in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade will also join us for the series.

**February 16**

*"God is Still Speaking"*

Nell Taylor

A Personal Perspective on the Issue of Becoming a Reconciling Church

**February 23**

*"The Me I Was Created to Be"*

Cindy Winkler

A Personal Perspective on Living Into Your God-Created Self

**March 2**

*"The Right Side of History"*

Panel Discussion with

Jared Littleton and others.

Why LGBTQ Issues Matter Right Now and the Methodist Response to this Issue.



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

### Our Staff

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Please send submissions to editor

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# Think About This...

*"Think about this. Wrap your minds around it. This is serious business, rebels. Take it to heart. Remember your history, your long and rich history. I am God, the only God you've ever had or ever will have, incomparable, irreplaceable. From the very beginning telling you what the ending will be, all along letting you in on what is going to happen, assuring you I'm in this for the long haul, I'll do exactly what I set out to do."* Isaiah 46:8-10

- \* The first successful cast-iron plow, invented in the United States in 1797, was rejected by New Jersey farmers under the theory that cast iron poisoned the land and stimulated the growth of weeds.
- \* In Germany it was proved by "experts" that if trains went at the frightful speed of 15 miles per hour, blood would spurt from the travelers' noses and passengers would suffocate when going through tunnels.
- \* Commodore Vanderbilt dismissed Westinghouse and his new air brakes for trains, stating, "I have no time to waste on fools."
- \* Those who loaned Robert Fulton money for his steamboat project stipulated that their names be withheld for fear of ridicule were it known that they supported anything so "foolhardy".
- \* In 1881, when the New York YWCA announced typing lessons for women, vigorous protests were made on the grounds that the female constitution would break down under the strain.
- \* Men insisted that iron ships would not float, that they would damage more easily than wooden ships when grounding, that it would be difficult to preserve the iron bottom from rust, and that iron would deflect the compass.

These are but a few examples of challenges put in the way of folks who ultimately were able to stretch themselves beyond that which most people believed to be true. It is my experience that in those times, God often shows up in some really incredible ways. In this present age, it has become increasingly easy to be pessimistic about every opportunity. Remember, in the end, new life wins. I remain excited about the new life already evident in our church, and anticipate that God has even brighter things in store for us. May we keep the faith as we witness to these things.

Stay warm,

*Pastor Clark*

### OLD CELL PHONES WANTED



Have an old cell phone collecting dust and using up space in your junk drawer? Recycle it! Bring your old phone to the coat room collection bin for safe recycling, and earn money for our church Missions Fund!



Fellowship Hour  
Hosts for February  
**YOUTH  
BOARD**  
*Thank you!*



# News from the Brecksville United Methodist Women

The Thursday, February 6 UMW meeting will feature Cathie Clager and Rita Wolansky from the Brecksville Historical Society who will present on the topic "Tragedy on the Frozen Plains--1888." The morning will start at 9:30 with a continental breakfast and fellowship followed by the 10 am program. Everyone is welcome and we hope that you will join us.



Just a reminder that UMW is still collecting Acme register tapes. A percentage of your purchases will fund UMW Mission. A labeled box is in the coat room. Any receipts dated September 21 to February 6 count — and the last day to turn them in is March 1. Thank YOU for your support!

## Boy Scout Sunday, Feb. 9



Boy Scout Troop 175 invites the congregation to enjoy a Pancake Breakfast of Appreciation between worship services on Scout Sunday. Scouts will prepare and serve breakfast for which there is no charge (donations accepted.)

Join us in our celebration of Scout Sunday and all of the ways that Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to youth in our community. Scouting emphasizes honesty, self

-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

We congratulate all the kids and volunteers who are active in Scouting throughout Northeast Ohio and want to offer a special prayer and word of the thanks to the leaders and members of Boy Scout Troop 175, which is 90 years old and chartered to Brecksville United Methodist Church since 1942.

*Mark your calendar for March 9—Girl Scout Sunday!*



If you haven't been able to make it to Pizza with the Pastor because of it's later hour, The Evangelism Committee invites you to come enjoy Pancakes with the Pastor Feb. 9! The next Pizza with the Pastor will be Sunday, March 16 at 12:15 pm.

## Church Decorating



A very small group decorates our church for all the holidays, and they could use your help! Please call the church office 440.526.8938 or email [office@breckvilleumc.com](mailto:office@breckvilleumc.com) if you can lend a hand. Thank you!

# EMPTY BOWLS FIGHT HUNGER



THURSDAY  
February 6  
5 -7:30 pm

The Gathering Room,  
Brecksville Human Resources  
Center

Your \$10 ticket benefits  
Brecksville Food Bank and  
Lend-a-Hand in Broadview  
Heights.

Hosted by The Kiwanis Club  
of Brecksville and the Lions  
Club of Broadview Heights.

Guests are invited to a simple  
meal of soup and bread. In  
exchange for a cash donation,  
guests are asked to keep a bowl  
as a reminder of all the empty  
bowls in the world.

The Brecksville Center for the  
Arts and the Brecksville Broad-  
view Heights High School Art  
Department have committed  
to making ceramic bowls and  
The North Coast Woodturners  
will make wooden bowls for  
the event.

Tickets are available through  
any **Kiwanis** or **Lion's Club**  
Member. For additional infor-  
mation, please contact Kathy  
Sopka at 440-821-5203 or  
Bill Rittman 440-526-5618 or  
[abrittman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abrittman@sbcglobal.net).

Music with a Mission  
**EARTH**  
**WIND**  
**FIRE**  
The elements of nature.  
**2.28.2014**

An Evening of Fun Benefiting the  
Youth Service Project  
and Music Department

Awesome MC's, great songs and  
sketches, and a delicious dinner cooked  
and served by our YSP youth.

6 pm—Doors Open, Silent Auction  
6:30—Dinner is Served  
7 pm—Auction Closes,  
Show Begins Soon After

Tickets are  
\$12 for adults. \$6 children under 12.  
Children under 5 are free.

Get your tickets before or after church  
on any Sunday in February,  
or in the church office!  
440-526-8938 or  
office@brecksvilleumc.com

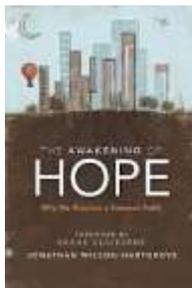
Want to help?  
Contact Catherine Vastartis  
(cvastartis@gmail.com) if you can help  
with dinner or Michelle Shively  
(mlshively@roadrunner.com) to get  
involved with the silent auction.



## What If? Adult Sunday School News

Throughout the month of January we have been Going Deeper on Sunday mornings. We have turned our hearts and minds towards the task of our own spiritual development. Under the wonderful leadership of various teachers we have focused on priorities, prayer and outreach. We also took a week to look at our place within the greater story of our church. Next Sunday, February 2, we will wrap up our series with our final class—What if... where we will explore what could happen if we committed ourselves to each other in small groups. Join us to give your thoughts and ideas about the sorts of small groups you might be interested in seeing form at BUMC!

## Lenten Study

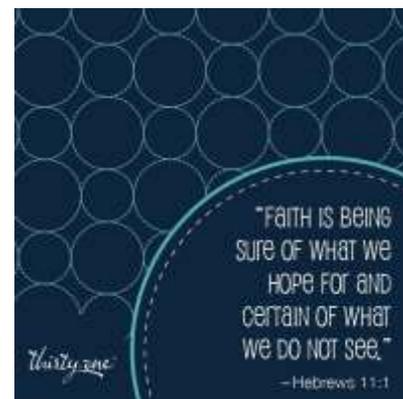


*The Awakening of Hope* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove tells us that faithful action is always inspired and sustained by common beliefs – which have sustained God's people throughout the generations. Join together with your faith family in this church-wide study where we explore the stories of the earliest Christians and ask the question 'why?' Why do Christians eat together? Why do we fast? Why do we make promises? These are the questions that help us see why the stories matter. We will explore seven ancient practices and explore core truths to learn what it means to build community among believers by nurturing our faith which leads us to action. Books will be available for purchase beginning February 9 with classes beginning on March 9 and continuing throughout Lent.

## Shop for YSP

Help support our high school youth as they travel to Waterloo, Iowa for their annual summer mission trip. Purchase your favorite Thirty-One products online between February 1-15th and Christine Hudacek, a Thirty-One Consultant, will donate 20% of the sales to the YSP fund. It's easy to do!

- Go to [www.mythirtyone.com/181014](http://www.mythirtyone.com/181014), Christine's Thirty-One website.
- Click on "My Parties".
- Click the "Shop Now" next to the BUMC YSP online party.



February customer special: For every \$35 spent you get a Zip-Top Organizing Utility Tote for only \$10. (Regular price \$35.) All orders will be submitted soon after the 15th. Most orders arrive within 7-10 days. Orders will be personally delivered to your home or picked up at the church. Direct delivery from Thirty-One available but at an extra charge. Share this with your neighbors, friends and relatives. Unable to order online? Paper orders will be happily accepted. Contact Christine Hudacek at 440.740.1211 or 330.388.1159.

# Godly Play is on Hiatus

News from the Education Department

There has been a significant change to our Sunday School Program. The Godly Play program, which focuses on preschool and Kindergarten aged children, has been suspended because of low attendance. Godly Play is a wonderful and effective use of storytelling that introduces young children to the people, events and lessons of the Bible. We have been so fortunate through the years to have a dedicated team of talented teachers committed to teaching it. We are so disappointed to have to make this decision, and pray that it's only temporary. If you have a child or grandchild who is in preschool or kindergarten we will have other options available on Sunday morning.

- ▶ Bible story time in the crib room which will be appropriate for any child – ages three, four or five. If you would like to volunteer as a storyteller during the 10:00 hour please let Jenny know.
- ▶ If your child is in Kindergarten and has some experience with Sunday School or a Children's Church program you may want to consider our Rotation Program. We are opening up our combined 1st and 2nd grade rotation program for these children to join. Rotation is taught in a classroom setting as the children do skits, play games, conduct science experiments and create culinary delights that help them learn a particular Bible story. The children stay focused on the same Bible story for 5 or 6 weeks and learn it from different teachers using different learning styles.



Would you like to spend time with the younger folks in our congregation? We are always looking for loving and caring volunteers to help in the Crib and Toddler room on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help you can log onto [www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A5A72CA57-crib3](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090845A5A72CA57-crib3) to sign up or contact Jenny Gee: 440-526-8938. You will need to be up to date on your Child Protection Policy training, but Jenny will happily assist you with that.



North Coast District  
United Methodist Church

## Leadership Academy

For Laity and Clergy

The 2014 Leadership Academy will be held at Rocky River UMC on February 1. Registration at 8:30. The day will open with worship at 9 am, followed by 32 different workshops (choose two or three!) Inspiration, meaningful worship, and workshops that present new approaches for living out the Gospel will make for a great day! More details are available in the Leadership Academy brochure. Printed copies are available in the church office, or online at the link below.

<http://northcoastdistrictumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2014-LA-Brochure-PDF-4.pdf>

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



Open Table Service and Holy Communion, lovingly created to honor full inclusion of all God's children in our church. All are Welcome.

Sunday, February 23, 2014 at  
6:30 pm

Inspiring Message by:  
The Reverend Dianne  
Tobey Covault

*"Nothing can separate us  
from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus."*

- Romans 8:38-39

Leadership Planning Meeting at  
5:00 PM (all are welcome)

Meal at 5:30 PM

Worship at 6:30 PM

Child Care will be provided.

Church of the Saviour UMC  
2537 Lee Road  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
216-321-8880

Website and Directions:

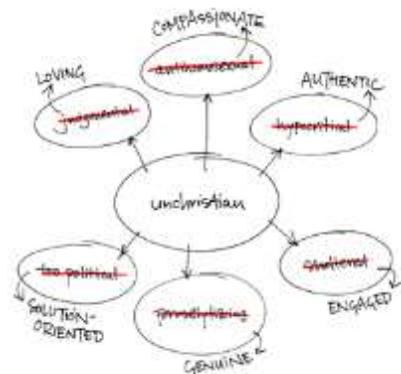
[www.chsaviour.org](http://www.chsaviour.org)



## Altar Flowers

Share a special occasion with the congregation—order Altar Flowers! A standard sized arrangement is \$40, and special arrangements are available at additional cost. Flowers are provided by Vince DiCillo of Forest Woods. Take your arrangement home to enjoy after second service! Contact Cec to order: 440-526-8938

**High School Sunday School: UNchristian.**



High School Sunday school continues to work from the book by David Kinnaman, exploring culturally held views about Christians, and how we, as Christians, can respond. In January, we considered the stereotypes that Christians are “hypocritical” and “judgmental” and considered how we can be individuals who live in a way that counters these generalizations.

In February, we will focus on the stereotype that Christians are “anti-gay.”

February 2: What does the Bible say about homosexuality? What did Jesus say about it?

February 9: What does it mean to be a welcoming church? Is there really a place for everyone?

February 16 & 23, March 2: On these three Sundays, we will join the adults for an exciting guest speaker series, related to the issue of inclusivity. We will hear personal stories from LGBT individuals who are faithful members of the Methodist community and explore how the Methodist church is growing and changing around the issue of inclusivity.

*This educational series is sponsored by our Reconciling Ministries Task Force, a subset of Church & Society. (You can read more about it in the Adult Education section of this newsletter!)*

# YOUTH NEWS

Middle School Youth Group – Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are meeting at a new time right after school on Wednesdays. We get together around 3:00 in the youth room for games, fellowship, snacks and great discussion. We are meeting every Wednesday in February, and we would love to see you! *Also, don't forget that you're invited to go snow tubing on Sunday, February 9. (Details below!)*

High School Youth Group – Youth in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will gather in the Youth Room at 4:00pm on Sunday evenings for food, fellowship, discussion as we read through the Gospel of Mark together. We have some special events in February!



Sunday, February 2: YSP Meeting  
There will be an informational meeting for youth and parents interested in YSP beginning at 4pm (at the beginning of HS youth group). We will gather in the youth room to distribute information and answer questions about the trip! *Youth group will still meet after the YSP meeting, continuing our Bible study with Mark, chapter 4.*



Sunday, February 9: Snow Tubing  
We're hitting the slopes from 2:00 – 5:00pm at Brandywine's Polar Blast. **If we have 15 participants, cost will be only \$20/person.** We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 and plan to return by 5:30. *This trip is open to Middle School and High School, and it will take the place of high school youth group for that day.*



Sunday, February 16: Normal Youth Group  
We'll meet 4-6pm in the youth room for our usual time of games, snacks, fellowship and Bible study (Mark chapter five.)

Sunday, February 23: Open Table Service  
High School youth and families are invited to attend an Open Table worship service at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights, beginning at 6:30pm. This trip will be led by members of our Reconciling Task Force and is open to the congregation! *This will take the place of youth group for the evening.*



Music With a Mission  
It's all hands on deck for this great annual event, which is an important fundraiser for our YSP trip. Even if you are not planning to attend YSP, we could still use your help! Contact Alan Scheufler at [asch0897@gmail.com](mailto:asch0897@gmail.com) to volunteer or Joy Parker at [music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com) to get involved with the music! *Read more about this event on page four of this issue!*

# Happy Birthday!

Doris	Cipolla	02/01	Leslie	Hoffman	02/13
Grant	Kardos	02/01	William	Hurder	02/13
Douglas	Hubert	02/02	Monica	Kotnik	02/13
Gail	Meyer	02/02	Andrew	Kubek	02/13
John	Olenik	02/02	Mallory	McCrodden	02/13
Donna	Bambic	02/03	Alec	Wilson	02/13
Brian	Buttolph	02/03	Ellen	Falko	02/14
Colin	Johnson	02/03	Lucy	Fesler	02/14
Ashlyn	Yeater	02/03	Dorothy	Jordan	02/14
Barbara	Soltis	02/04	Abigail	Smith	02/15
David	AuWerter	02/05	Jack	Hensley	02/16
Colin	Hamilton	02/05	William	Kranstuber	02/16
Faith	McAllister	02/05	Matthew	Miller	02/16
Lynn	Spencer	02/05	Stephanie	Fisher	02/17
Robert	Andree	02/06	Grace	Ford	02/17
Paul	Olszko	02/06	Christine	Hudacek	02/17
Chloe	Boldt	02/07	Emma	Piorkowski	02/17
Rebecca	Chen	02/08	Scott	Campbell	02/18
Nancy	Knowlton	02/08	John	Kenney	02/18
Courtney	Scheff	02/08	Alexandra	Kenney	02/19
Chad	Boldt	02/09	Sally	Bibler	02/20
Eric	Buttolph	02/09	Nancy	Hoyer	02/20
Sarah	Nurre	02/09	Matthew	Ling	02/20
Robert	Williams	02/09	Daniel	Rajkovich	02/22
Pamela	Johnson	02/10	Stephen	Warth	02/22
Marjorie	Webb	02/10	Erin	Gee	02/23
Douglas	Bender	02/11	Janet	Kleckner	02/24
Marla	Hocutt	02/12	Eric	Louttit	02/24
Kelly	McLuckie	02/12	Olive	Priest	02/24
Gladys	Smith	02/12	Miriam	Buttolph	02/25
Gloria	Southam	02/12	Nancy	Wygonski	02/25
			Darcie	Engler	02/27
			Angela	Harper	02/27
			Emily	Hastings	02/27
			Taylor	Whitton	02/27

*Thank You!*

As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Folks like Don and Robin Raybuck, whose generosity allowed us to send a devotional booklet to every church family during our stewardship campaign; and Kathy Holmes who jumped in to help in the nursery on Sunday morning, and has been such a big help with Music with a Mission and the YSP Plant sale. For all of you, and for all of the ways you serve, we are thankful!



**MILESTONES**  
*News of the Fellowship*

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

“Our deepest thanks to Rev. Stein and the congregation for their outpouring of support at the death of our beloved mother, Linnet Huber.”

- Beverly, Marilyn and Douglas

BUMC's Facebook Page reached a milestone recently, surpassing 100 "Likes!" Are you a fan? Like us and be among the first to hear news from the Methodist Church, mission opportunities, and pictures!

[www.facebook.com/brecksvilleumc](http://www.facebook.com/brecksvilleumc)

**Usher  
Training**



Ushers make a huge difference in the life of the church. So how does our church extend a welcome? Do you wonder if this welcoming ministry is someplace that you could share your gift? What exactly does the usher do? Can we do this as a family? How much time will I need to commit? All these questions and more will be addressed at an Usher Meeting on February 22 at 9 am. The meeting will last approximately one hour. Let's all be part of this mission opportunity. Questions and RSVP to Cec 440.526.8938 or [cecp@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:cecp@brecksvilleumc.com).

# FEBRUARY 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p><i>Communion Stewards Bob &amp; Joan Bloch</i></p>	 <p><b>SOUPER BOWL</b></p>	<p><b>HELP THE HUNGRY!</b> Contribute to the BUMC Soup Drive. Fill the Brookside Donation Bin in the month of February!</p>				<p>1 North Coast District Leadership Academy</p> 
<p>2 <i>Communion Sunday</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 4 High School Youth Grp 4 YSP Family Meeting</p> <p><i>Super Bowl Sunday</i></p>	<p>3 4:30 BCA Chorus 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>4 10 Staff Mtg 7 Evangelism</p>	<p>5 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth Gp 7 College Planning Night at Independence UMC</p>	<p>6 9:30 UMW 4 Wo Emmaus <b>5 Men's Grp</b> <b>6:15 Men's Ensemble</b> <b>7:30 The Steel Wheels</b></p> 	<p>7 7a Emmaus 3 Young Adult Choir</p>	<p>8 6p Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Place</p>
<p>9 <i>Boy Scout Sunday</i> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour 10 Pancakes with the Pastor! <b>11:15 Worship</b> 12:30 Music Board 2 Youth Snow Tubing</p>	<p>10 7 Bible Study 8 COE 4:30 BCA Chorus</p>	<p>11 11 Staff Mtg 7 COM 8 Missions</p>	<p>12 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth Gp</p>	<p>13 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 4 Wo Emmaus <b>5 Men's Grp</b> <b>5 Kid's Choir</b> 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>14 7a Emmaus 3 Young Adult Choir 6 Wedding Rehearsal <i>Music Scholarship Applications Due</i></p>	<p>15  Church Wedding ~ 1 pm Smile Train Dodge Ball Game, Ridgewood UMC</p>
<p>16 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 3 Pearl Road Dinner 4 High School Youth Grp</p>	<p>17 7 Bible Study 7 SPRC</p> <p><i>President's Day No School</i></p>	<p>18 10 Staff Mtg 10 Knitting 7 Church &amp; Society 7 Finance 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>19 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth Gp</p>	<p>20 10 History Club <b>5 Men's Grp</b> <b>5 Kid's Choir</b> 6:15 Bells <b>7:20 Men's Ensemble</b> 8 Choir</p> 	<p>21 7a Emmaus 3 Young Adult Choir</p> 	<p>22 <b>Usher Training</b>  9 am</p>
<p>23 <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Education Hour <b>11:15 Worship</b> 4 High School Youth Grp</p>	<p>24 7 Bible Study 4:30 BCA Chorus</p>	<p>25 10 Staff Mtg 7p Knitting</p>	<p>26 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth Gp</p>	<p>27 4 Wo Emmaus <b>5 Men's Grp</b></p> <p><i>Music with a Mission Dress Rehearsal</i> 6:15 Bells 6:40 Men 7 All Rehearse</p>	<p>28 7a Emmaus 3 Young Adult Choir</p> <p><i>Music with a Mission</i> 6 Doors 6:30 Dinner 7 Show</p>	