

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

The Good Word

May 2015, Issue Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service. Published April 27

Fair Trade = Ethical Shopping

Our Fair Trade Fair featured items from artisans from around the world!

Earrings made from recycled magazines in Uganda, infused olive oils from Palestine, handbags hand woven in El Salvador, coffee grown on farms where the farmers were paid a fair price for their beans—all this and more was found in Fellowship Hall on the last weekend of April. Fair Trade products are produced under standards designed to end and prevent the poverty, sweatshop labor conditions, environmental degradation, and other conditions which put profits above people and the planet. Did you shop the Fair Trade Fair? Give yourself a pat on the back!



Bev Huber snapped this photo in Fellowship Hall on April 26.

Miss a Sunday, Miss a Lot!

May 3

Communion Sunday

May 10

UMW Sunday, Mother's Day

May 17

Confirmation Sunday

May 24

Pentecost

May 31

Graduation Sunday

Summer Worship Hours Begin!

8:30 Worship on the Lawn

10 Worship in the Sanctuary



8:45 Contemporary Worship
10 Education Hour
11:15 Traditional Worship
Summer Worship Hours Begin May 31

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Dizzy Spells

Rev. Clark Stein,
Senior Pastor



A certain man was troubled with dizzy spells. He went from one doctor to another and none could tell him what the problem was. He tried everything, it seemed. Finally, it was bothering him so much he started to lose weight, and he couldn't sleep at night. He became a nervous wreck and his health began to deteriorate. He had lost hope that he would ever recover. So he decided to prepare for the worst. He made out his will, bought a cemetery plot, and even made arrangements with the local undertaker for what he was convinced was his soon demise. He even decided to buy a new suit of clothes to be buried in. When he went into the haberdasher's he was measured for everything and picked out shoes, socks, coat, pants, and he asked for a size 15 shirt as well. The clerk said, "But, sir, you need a size 16 ½ shirt, not a 15." But the man insisted he wore a size 15. Finally, in exasperation the clerk said, "But if you wear a size 15 you'll get dizzy spells."

The events of Holy Week wrapped their hands around the disciples' throats like sized 15 collars. I believe they knew what it was to experience dizzy spells, and to plan for their own demise. Good answers seemed elusive, and no clear cut way forward left them behind closed doors planning funerals. But when they got on back about their business, they found new life out and about. They found new life in walking with a stranger along a road to Emmaus. They found new life when a stranger told them to come ashore and have breakfast. They found the Risen Jesus in new places at unusual times.

I believe that these encounters allowed each of them to loosen their collars a bit, and the dizzy spells seemingly went away. When they became accustomed to encountering the presence of Jesus in their "everydayness" life became a bit less squeezed.

Spring, after a long, cold, cruel winter, loosens our collars. As you make your way back out into the world, I pray the squeezes on you lessen. I pray you find the Risen Christ in your "everydayness." I pray you come to know peace and new life in ways that may have eluded you up until now. Time to open the windows, unbolt the doors, and to venture out...

Peace,

Pastor Clark

Old Stamps = Tools!

The UMW collects cancelled postage stamps (except the Forever stamp and postcard stamps) for National Church Women United. The stamps help "Tools for Hope" an effort to provide tools in developing countries around the world. Bring your stamps to the box in the cloak room. It's a great way to help!



Special Thanks to Finance
Committee for hosting Coffee
Hour in April!
Our May hosts will be
Church and Society.

Serving in Love

The fight against hunger and food insecurity is one cause our Missions Committee has committed itself to in a big way! Throughout the year, we are sending teams of volunteers out into the community to help.

On March 22, we sent a team to Pearl Road Mission, a United Methodist ministry. The team backed 32 trays of lasagna trays to feed 140 meals at Pearl Road and distributed the remaining food to Malachi House. That's a lot of lasagna!



Cooks included Kathy Goebel, Janine Telischak, Janet Kleckner, Gail and Doug Huth, Catherine (Chief Gourmet chef!) and Mark Vastartis. Servers of the meal included Jeanette Dumont, Tim and Leslie Miller, Linda Rollins, Catherine Vastartis, Kathy Goebel, Janet Kleckner, and Doug and Gail Huth. Special thanks to Donna Sibits, head procurer of materials!

On March 28 at Cleveland Food Bank we had 12 people packing 9800 pounds of food for distribution into backpacks for school children to take home. Workers included

Herb Einheit, Janine Telischak, Doug Huth, Sharon and Matthew Manocchio, Judy and Maddy Mc Bride, Kylie, Connor, and Nathan Hulten, and Roberta and Paul Petznick. Thank you one and all!

Our next hands on mission project at the Cleveland Food Bank is Saturday May 30, from 8 am to noon (with future dates scheduled in September and November.) Want to be a part of this ministry? Sign up on Sunday in The Parlor or contact Doug Huth!

Special EASTER OFFERING

This year's Easter Offering of \$3000 has been divided equally and sent to the following missions:

- ▶ [Flat Rock Homes](#), providing services which transform the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- ▶ [The Society of St. Andrew](#) (the Potato Project), which redirects loads of fresh produce to those in need nationally.
- ▶ [Red Bird Mission](#), providing spiritual, educational, health and outreach ministries for people in remote Appalachia.

You're Needed!



Bike Round Up!

Movement is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School, and part of this year's VBS mission is a Bike Round up! We're collecting and fixing up used bikes for kids in need in greater Cleveland. Can you help?

Bikes Needed! As you clean out your garage this spring, **don't put that old bike out on the tree lawn.** Donate it! We will begin collecting bicycles **starting May 6.** We'll have a collection area on the stage in Fellowship Hall.

Bike Mechanics and Beautifiers Needed! We want to present these bikes in good condition. Do you have a skill for repairing bicycles, or a handy side you are willing to share? Are you willing to clean or paint a bike or two? We need your help!

Bike Round Up Captain Needed! This exciting mission project can really take off with a helping hand to guide it. Can you join the VBS team to oversee the program and encourage the children throughout the week to give with love? Can you help lead the way with other adults? We need you!

Questions? Ideas?
Suggestions?

Call Jenny: 440-526-8938 or
education@brecksvilleumc.com



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

Three members of our church family recently moved on to the church triumphant. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Miriam Buttolph, member here since 1988, passed away on Sunday, March 29. Funeral services were held April 1, Rev. Barbara Bartholomew officiating.

Marilyn Schillo, who joined our church in 1992, passed away early Easter morning. Funeral services were held here April 9, Rev. Russ Martin officiating.

Dr. Neil Johnson, former superintendent of Brecksville Broadview Heights City School District, passed away on April 20 at his home in Florida. A memorial service will be held here at the church on Saturday, May 2.

Bob Johns is celebrating a big milestone this month - his 90th birthday! You're invited to celebrate with him and his family in Fellowship Hall after second service on Sunday, May 24. RSVP to Catherine by May 8! [440-759-6436](tel:440-759-6436) or cvastartis@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Darell and Karen Fisher who recently welcomed a grandson! (Charles) Grant Dabbs was born January 8, to their daughter, Danielle Dabbs, and her husband, Charles. Grant weighed 9 lbs, 12 oz!

We also offer prayers of joy on the birth of Lydia Rose Blank, granddaughter of Becky and Chuck Gezze, born to their daughter Megan in April.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Karen Pace | 12 Doug Hurst |
| 3 Shelby Olszko | 12 Kathy Stein |
| 4 Micah Stein | 12 Walt Walburn |
| 5 Sandie Meyer | 12 Chris Wygonski |
| 6 Suzanne Blatnik | 13 Michael Paroda |
| 7 Eli Shively | 13 Nancy Sirianni |
| 8 Stephanie Holmes | 14 Nora Culley |
| 8 Lori Pasek | 14 Danielle Fisher |
| 8 Allie Russo | 14 Wyatt Slifcak |
| 9 Eric Chen | 15 Melanie Smith |
| 9 Jenny Gee | 16 Jeff Drescher |
| 9 Scott Hastings | 16 Harry Fox |
| 10 Alison Bell | 16 Donald Rickert |
| 10 Jack Drescher | 16 Lauren Sendrey |
| 10 Russell Goodwin | 17 Matthew Dietrich |
| 10 Sandy Kovalik | 17 Lynn Hobzek |
| 10 Nancy Lee | 17 Sara Meyer |
| 10 Mike Stratis | 18 Emily Kotnik |
| 11 Evan Croy | 19 Philip Hines |
| 11 Bobby Hotaling | 20 Betty Fielden |
| 11 Margaret Putka | 20 Ava McFarlane |
| 11 Bill Rittman | 20 Kirk Robinson |
| 11 Joseph Tereshko | 20 Ryan Wilson |
| | 21 Ed Gugliucci |
| | 21 Emily Miller |
| | 22 Nick Bondra |
| | 22 Brian Culley |
| | 22 Mark Hobzek |



| |
|------------------------|
| 23 Bev Huber |
| 23 Nathan Hudacek |
| 23 Michael Lee |
| 24 Brett Hof |
| 24 Evan Jaite |
| 24 Taylor Kwiatkowski |
| 24 Tom Taylor |
| 25 Gabrielle Croes |
| 25 Alan Scheufler |
| 25 Kathleen Sopka |
| 26 Bob Johns |
| 26 Carina Kosla |
| 26 Alison Rickert |
| 26 Catherine Vastartis |
| 27 Greg Diver |
| 27 Don Krolikowski |
| 27 Jack Neville |
| 28 Kate Burrows |
| 29 David Engler |
| 29 Bailey Mendlik |
| 30 Josh Dietrich |
| 30 Ashley Pacholewski |
| 31 Clark Rechkemmer |



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. People like Emily Loughner, who has stepped in so seamlessly to help run our Power Point slides during worship. She does such a great job! Elinor Rowan, who so faithfully coordinates our Prayer Chain. This quiet ministry is such a powerful comfort to so many. Our Holy Week services were made even more meaningful with musical contributions from so many. Brenda Calovini wrote an original piece and performed it, with Joy Parker accompanying, at Tenebrae service on Good Friday. On Easter morning, Shawana Kerr and Megan Rohrer filled the Sanctuary with joyful singing and Evan Croy, the Auble Family, our Praise Band and our Young Adult Chorus shared such beautiful songs during worship. Becky Chen and the Greater Cleveland Flute Society's Flute Choir blessed us with special worship music in April as well. We thank God for each and every one of you!

2015

SUMMER BOOK SERIES

BRAIN FOOD

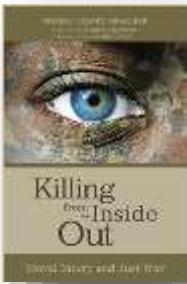
Wednesday
Evenings 7 pm

DISCUSSION

It has been suggested that civil discourse is something of a lost art in American culture. Open and honest conversation, however, is critical to addressing and resolving the challenging issues that face us as individuals and communities. This summer, you are invited to be a part of that conversation! Our theme for the summer is violence as it manifests itself both in war and in times of supposed peace. Discussion will be led by Joy Parker, Director of Worship at Brecksville United Methodist Church, and the conversation is open to all. Whether you are a person of faith or not, regardless of your political affiliation (or lack thereof), and whatever your background, you are welcome. The only requirement is a genuine desire to be in open, honest conversation with others in a respectful and edifying environment. For more information, visit www.brecksvilleumc.com or contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com. There is no charge for book discussion (other than the cost of the books); dessert and beverages will be provided.

Our First Book ~ Wednesday, July 1 at Brecksville UMC in The Parlor

Killing from the Inside Out: Moral Injury and Just War by Robert Emmett Meagher (2014)



Armies know all about killing. It is what they do, and ours does it more effectively than most. We are painfully coming to realize, however, that we are also especially good at killing our own “from the inside out,” silently, invisibly. In every major war since Korea, more of our veterans have taken their lives than have lost them in combat. The latest research, rooted in veteran testimony, reveals that the most severe and intractable PTSD – fraught with shame, despair, and suicide – stems from something Meagher describes as “moral injury.” He asks how veterans can be suffering under the weight of this moral injury even in conflicts that are viewed as “just” or justified. Meagher examines the “Just War Theory” that has grown up over the centuries in our churches and political institutions alike. Ultimately, *Killing from the Inside Out* radically questions this notion, examines its legacy, and challenges readers to look beyond it for wisdom that is, at once, both ancient and new. [This text is available in **Paperback and Kindle (digital)** format.]

July 29 at 7 pm. Our Second Selection is *Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America* by Adam Winkler. In *Gunfight*, Adam Winkler takes an objective look at the evolution of constitutional law and public opinion around the issue of gun possession. Winkler defends both sides of the argument on their merits and is equally willing to level critique where it is deserved. Readers will learn a great deal about the formation of the NRA, the history of interpretation of the Second Amendment, and landmark litigation that has shaped the debate over gun rights and gun control. [This text is available in Paperback, Kindle, or Audible (“book on tape”) format.]

August 26 at 7 pm. **In August, we'll discuss** *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (2014). Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) is among the most influential trial lawyers of our day. His 2002 TED talk has been viewed over 2.2 million times, and he recently addressed the City Club of Cleveland (March 2015) around issues of mass incarceration, unjust litigation on behalf of minorities, and the incarceration of minor children. At once challenging, heartbreaking and inspiring, *Just Mercy* is a narrative account both of Stevenson's own growth as a civil rights attorney and of some of his most compelling clients. [This text is available in Paperback, Kindle, or Audible (“book on tape”) format.]

Golf Scramble & Steak Dinner



Third Annual Scholarship Golf Outing

Saturday, June 20, 2015

BRIARWOOD GOLF CLUB

2737 Edgerton Road, Broadview Hts, OH 44147

1 pm Shotgun Start / Arrive by 12:30 pm

\$75.00 Person ~ \$60.00 Youth 21 and Under

\$25 Dinner Only

*Come enjoy a great day on the
links with friends new and old!*

The love of the game and outdoors is only part of the reason to join us, as you'll be golfing to support our church's music scholarship fund! Register using the form below or online— address below.

Short of a foursome?

Contact us and we'll help you find additional team members.

Ric Lesinski office@brecksvilleumc.com

Not a golfer? Join us for dinner!

Fee Includes:

- ♦ Entry into Scramble
- ♦ 18 holes and cart
- ♦ Dinner
- ♦ Soft drinks
- ♦ Prizes
- ♦ Charity!
- ♦ Fun!
- ♦ Fellowship!

Return the registration form below by May 31st.

Send to BUMC Music Department, 65 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141

Call 440-526-8938 with any questions or E-mail music@brecksvilleumc.com

GOLF TEAM REGISTRATION

Name of Golfer 1) _____ \$75

Name of Golfer 2) _____ \$75

Name of Golfer 3) _____ \$75

Name of Golfer 4) _____ \$75

Checks Payable to BUMC ~ "Golf Outing" in memo line. Total Enclosed: _____

Contact Person for Confirmation: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**\$200 Dinner
Sponsors**

☐ YES, I'll help
sponsor the meal!
(4 needed)

**\$100 Hole
Recognitions**

☐ YES, I'll sponsor
a hole!
(18 available)

Prefer to sign up electronically? Visit: brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/regformgolf

2015 Russian Orphanage Trip

Prayer and Donations Needed

This year, volunteers from the East Ohio Conference and from our church will work at an orphanage in Oboyan in the Kursk Oblast as part of the Russia Initiative to foster rebirth of the Methodist Church across that county.

Our church has been asked to bring small gift bag items for boys and girls ages 5-18. We would ask for donations of any number "dollar store" items that would fit in the small gift bags we give each student. These can be left in the box marked Russia VIM in the coat room outside Fellowship Hall by Sunday, May 23.

Your representatives have personally seen how the Russian students benefit substantially from the willingness of our church and its members to share both their time and material contributions. Please keep the Ukraine/Russia situation, Kursk students, care givers and VIM team in your prayers. Thank you.

- Bruce McCrodden, bmcrod@aol.com, 440.915.1420



Bruce McCrodden and friend at the Russian Orphanage



Thank You

Dear Brecksville United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your 100% payment of shared ministry funds. Your commitment has allowed the East Ohio Conference to receive its highest pay-in amount in 20 years! The Church's continued efforts are blessing lives near and far.

Thank you! *Jessica Vargo*,
Conference Treasurer



Student Recital

Saturday, May 9 at 7:30pm

BUMC children and youth of all ages will share their musical talent!

The congregation is invited to attend this wonderful evening of music – free and open to the public! Following intermission, we will hear a short recital from Adam Ballog and Maureen Thomas, two Senior vocal majors from Kent State University.

Scholarship winners will be announced at the Student Recital.



Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com

Looking for the Question of the Month?

You'll have to wait until the June issue of *The Good Word*! Do you have a question you'd like to ask the staff? Send it to Melanie office@brecksvilleumc.com

SAVE THE DATE
for G-FORCE
VBS!

Monday July, 13 through
Friday July 17, 2015
9 am - 12 pm each day

[2015.cokesburyvbs.com/
brecksvilleumc.com](http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/brecksvilleumc.com)

YOUTH NEWS

High School News

Youth Group – We'll continue to meet throughout May, Sunday evenings from 7-9pm, with our last youth group of the school year on May 24! We'll take a deeper look at the topics covered in our weekly Sunday school lessons, have some honest conversation about the tough decisions we make every day on relationships, beauty, alcohol, and more, and learn where Jesus fits into it all.

YAC, June 12-14 - Calling all teens! This year's Youth Annual Conference will be from June 12-14 at Lakeside. We have a limited number of spots available for this incredible weekend of faith-building, worship, leadership development, and fellowship. Cost is \$60 per participant which includes your registration, food, lodging, and a t-shirt. Call or email Courtney today to reserve your place for this awesome weekend!

SENIORS! We want to honor you and your involvement in BUMC's youth group during this exciting graduation season. Be sure to submit your name and plans for next year to Courtney by Sunday, May 24 so you can be recognized on Graduation Sunday, May 31! Also, mark your calendar for June 3, when we'll have a special "seniors only" send-off time – lots of food, laughs, and the beginning of a new tradition for graduating seniors!

YSP News/Fundraisers

Flower Sale – YSP participants, we need as much help as possible for our annual Flower Sale, May 9! Pick-up is from 10am-noon on Saturday morning, and we'll also have a car wash during this time. Please let Courtney know how you're able to help. Congregation members, don't forget to pick up your order on Saturday, May 9.

Flamingo Flocking – They're baaaack! We had so much fun with our flamingo flocking fundraiser last spring, we're bringing it back! This fundraiser could bring a flock of pink plastic birds to your front lawn for 48 hours before they fly the coop and find another BUMC member's yard to call home. Flockings and insurance will be available for purchase on Sundays starting mid-May. Flockings will begin in June.

Mock Stock - YSP's traditional Mock Stock fundraiser will be offered each Sunday in June between services. Please help support YSP with your donation for Mock Stock. Your 'investment' supports our BUMC high school youth on their Mission Trip to Pocahontas, Virginia, and 'appreciates' in ways only God can predict!

Middle School News

Confirmation – Confirmation students will be welcomed as members of our congregation on May 17 at the 11:15am service. Be sure not to miss this important milestone in the lives of our youth!

VBS, July 13-17 – This year, we're **REDEFINING** Middle School VBS. This week is going to be all about acting as the hands and feet of Jesus, and serving! To find more information, and to register, visit the church website today!
www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/youth/vbs/

Important Dates

May 9

YSP Plant Sale Pick-Up
and Car Wash
Student Recital

May 17

Confirmation Sunday

May 20th

Last Middle School Youth
Group

May 24

Last High School Youth
Group

May 31

Graduation Sunday

June 3

Senior Send-Off

Calling All Graduates!

Are you graduating from high school, college or graduate school this spring? We'd like to celebrate you at Graduation Sunday, May 31, during the 10 o'clock service. To be included, fill out a form at ti-nyurl.com/qywg5jf before May 24. Thank you!



Watch your yard. The flamingos are coming! Look for details in the next Good Word and in your bulletin!



News from the Brecksville United Methodist Women

Mary Todd Lincoln, May 7.

UMW meeting on Thursday, May 7 program will be a presentation by Jackie Mayer who will do a portrayal of First Lady, Mary Todd Lincoln. Morning starts with a continental breakfast at 9:30 followed by the program at 10:00. Everyone is welcome for this entertaining program.

This UMW Sunday Help Mothers in Need, May 10

Join us as we celebrate UMW Sunday and Mother's Day (watch your bulletin for details!) As part of the celebration, help us fill a crib with diapers, wipes, formula and the like for mothers in need. The UMW will deliver these items to Brookside Food Pantry on May 15. We'll also continue to collect non-perishable food items for Brookside in the bin in the first floor coat room.



Asbury Bremeth Circle Meets May 14. Asbury Bremeth Circle continues its study of John Wesley. Please join us April 9 in the Parlor for refreshments at 9:30 am and the study to follow. Hope to see you there.



Evening Circle!

Thursday, May 14 at 7 pm. May marks one year since we became a Reconciling Congregation. Come join our discussion about what it means to be a reconciling church. Everyone is welcome in the Evening Circle! Our ages range from 16 to 70-something and everywhere in between. Join us!

Church Women United

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Here's a look at some spring programming offered by the group.

- ▶ Spring Potluck Luncheon May 19 at noon at Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, OH, 440-885-2652. Bring a salad to share, a friend, and \$3 for the coffers of the hosts, Parma-Southwest District of Church Women United. The program will be presented by June Hartzell who will portray Mary Sutter, a midwife who defied the American medical establishment of the 1860's to become a surgeon.
- ▶ May Friendship Day, May 1, 2015, Mediterranean Party Center, 25021 Rockside Road, Bedford Heights, OH, east of Rt. 271. "Journey of a Care Giver." \$30.
- ▶ May Tour of Churches, May 11, 2015. Pick-up/drop-off at Islamic Temple on W. 130th or First Baptist in Cleveland Heights. Tour itinerary includes Sts. Constantine & Helen (Greek Orthodox); Jewish Temple on Fairmount Rd. in Beachwood; Solon Community Church in Solon; LUNCH at the Golden Corral in Macedonia; and Mt. Zion Church on Oakwood Village. \$35

Please call Nancy Knowlton if you have any questions or are interested in any of these events. 440-838-4341



"Our thanks to the Brecksville United Methodist Church Family for the love and support shown to us following the death of our mother-grandmother-and great grandmother, Miriam Buttolph. Sincerely, "

- Sandy Crist and Family

"Thank you to the congregation for the sympathy cards and prayers for my dear sister-in-law, Ruth Wylie. Blessings to all of you!"

- Marisol Wylie

The Brachna family thanks their Brecksville United Methodist Church family for their loving support upon the death of Carole's brother, Patrick.

If you dined at Creekside on April 14, thank you! You helped raise \$400 for the UMW Mission Fund!

- The Brecksville United Methodist Women

I want to thank the BUMC church family for the beautiful cards, thoughts and most of all prayers we received during the recent death of my father. All were felt, held close to my heart and appreciated. Blessings,

- Janine Telischak

THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter.
Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings, Announcements, Upcoming Events and More. To subscribe, e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com

MAY 2015

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>Communion Stewards for May Chuck & Becky Gezze</p> | | | | | 1 | 2 No Zumba this week. 11 Dr. Neil Johnson Memorial Service |
| <p>3 Communion Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hour 11:15 Worship 12:15 Music & Worship Board 1:30 Piano Recital 7 HS Youth Group</p> | <p>4 5:30 Kickboxing</p> | <p>5 10 Staff Meeting 11:30 Ntl Piano Guild Auditions 7 Evangelism 7:30 Zumba</p> | <p>6 6:30 Dawnbrks 11:30 Piano Guild Auditions 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 7:15 Infant Loss Support Group</p> | <p>7 9:30 UMW</p> | 8 | <p>9 9:30 Zumba 10 Plant Pick Up 7:30 Youth Recital and Kent Vocal Performance</p> |
| <p>10 Mother's Day UMW Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hour 11:15 Worship 7 HS Youth Group</p> |  <p>11 5:30 Kickboxing 8 COE</p> | <p>12 11 Staff Meeting 7 COM 7:30 Zumba</p> | <p>13 6:30 Dawnbrks 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p> | <p>14 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 7 Evening Circle</p>  | <p>15 UMW Food Delivery to Brookside Pantry</p>  | <p>16 Change the World Weekend 9:30 Zumba</p> <p>Church wedding</p> |
| <p>17 Confirmation Sunday 8:45 Worship & Baptism 10 Education Hour 11:15 Worship 1 Piano Recital 4 Liberia Mission Potluck</p>  | <p>18 5:30 Kickboxing 7 SPRC</p> | <p>19 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time Knitting Group 7 Gifts & Memorials 7 Missions 7:30 Trustees 7:30 Zumba</p> | <p>20 6:30 Dawnbrks 3 MS Youth 5 Men's Group 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p> | 21 | 22 | <p>23 9:30 Zumba</p> |
| <p>24 Pentecost 8:45 Worship 10 Education Hour 11:15 Worship 12 Bob John's 90th Birthday</p>  | <p>25 Memorial Day Church Offices Closed 5:30 Kickboxing</p> | <p>26 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance 7:30 Zumba</p> | <p>27 6:30 Dawnbrks 5 Men's Group</p> | 28 | <p>29 9:30 UMW Board Meeting</p>  | <p>30 8 Cleveland Food Bank 9:30 Zumba</p> <p>Church Wedding</p> |
| <p>31 Graduation Sunday Summer Worship Begins 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary—Baptism</p> | <p> = Altar flowers requested.</p> | | | | | |

When we join The United Methodist Church, we vow to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But sometimes, our good intentions get lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life. As a church, how are we doing with our promises? Can you help fill in the blanks?

PRAYERS

Consider adding the following to your prayer list...

- ▶ Those suffering with addiction. Pray that they will find the care and support needed to make the journey back to health and healing.
- ▶ Those who are experiencing an awaking of faith. Those who are questioning. Those who are searching. Pray that they will find a path to God.
- ▶ Mothers, those who are missing their mothers, and those who wish they were mothers this Mothers Day.
- ▶ Pray for those who are suffering, named and unnamed, that they may feel the loving arms of God around them.

Do you know that Brecksville United Methodist Church has an active e-mail Prayer Chain? To be added to the e-mail list, or to submit a prayer request, please contact Elrowan33@aol.com.

PRESENCE

| Date | First Service | Education Hour | Second Service | Goal of 300 |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Mar. 29 | 189 | 155 | 124 | -13 |
| Easter Apr. 5 | 232 | Sunrise 30 | 229 | +161 |
| Apr. 12 | 121 | 91 | 77 | -102 |
| Apr. 19 | 138 | 99 | 99 | -63 |

We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We fell short of this goal again this month. What's keeping you from church on Sunday? What are some other ways you can be present in the life of the church this month?

GIFTS

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the publication of the last *Good Word*.

| Date | Offering |
|----------|----------|
| March 29 | \$8312 |
| April 5 | \$9494 |
| April 12 | \$5066 |
| April 19 | \$9472 |

SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month (look for details in this issue of *The Good Word*):

- ▶ Be part of the Bike Round up this summer! Donate a used bike, or help spruce up the donated bikes for kids in need.
- ▶ Join the VBS team. There are so many ways to help!
- ▶ Donate to the Volunteers in Mission team traveling to Russia in June.
- ▶ Be a part of the Fall Fun Day festivities. Planning starts now! Join the team!
- ▶ Learn about ways you can help the three organizations chosen to receive our Easter Offering this year: Red Bird Mission, Flat Rock Homes, and the Society of St. Andrews.

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!

The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is [our church's mission](#). Through the power of our connection, we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.

United Methodist News

Do's and Don'ts of Welcoming Church Visitors without Smothering

From www.umcom.org

We all want to welcome new visitors. Our brand promise — “Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.” — is our commitment to maintain a welcoming lifestyle in our churches. However, there is a fine line between being friendly and solicitous and invading newcomers' space. Here are some ways to reach out and some dos and don'ts when welcoming visitors.

DON'T assume a curry chicken casserole or fudge brownies will delight everyone.

DO be aware that many people have different food preferences and even food allergies. Even offerings that sound neutral, like homemade bread, may be a bad idea due to gluten allergies. Think outside the box; consider taking a mug with your church's logo on it—stuffed with teabags or a special coffee packet and an issue of The Upper Room daily devotional guide. Another great offering may be a refrigerator magnet with your church's phone number, address, Facebook address, website, and Twitter account.

DON'T forget practical manners. They never go out of style.

DO keep the trip to a visitor's home short and sweet. If you are bringing something, simply say “thanks for visiting” and leave the gift. Don't expect an invitation to come inside. Call before coming, if possible, and keep the visit brief.

DON'T assume one communication method fits all. Posting the potluck dinner only on Facebook may mean people who rarely check their Facebook account won't see it. On the other hand, someone constantly hooked up to technology may just toss a printed envelope. DO ask visitors how they prefer to receive information about events and news. Encourage them to follow your Twitter feed and like your Facebook page. Ask them if they like to get text announcements.

DON'T assume a visitor who may not be a regular churchgoer knows terms like Advent. Also, don't assume a visitor even understands what it means when United Methodists say that Holy Communion is open to everyone.

DO make it easy for newcomers to find answers to questions. For instance, instead of saying, “Your daughter might enjoy UMYF;” say “Your daughter might enjoy our Sunday evening youth fellowship, which we call UMYF.”

DON'T take it personally if a family visits for weeks or even months without joining. You don't know what is happening in their lives and their faith journey, so don't be pushy.

DO understand that part of being a welcoming congregation means being patient. Be friendly and helpful. Let visitors know they are welcome at the level of involvement where they are most comfortable.

DON'T assume that one welcoming method fits all. Some visitors — especially older ones — might enjoy a phone call, while a busy family might consider it a nuisance.

DO announce in church that your congregation likes to reach out to visitors. Ask them to note on the registration pad if they prefer phone calls to home visits or email to snail mail. Reassure visitors from the pulpit that you do not intend to drop by unannounced.

DON'T put all the responsibility on the shoulders of the head greeter.

DO enlist everyone's help in making visitors feel welcome through handshakes, smiles and light conversation in the pew.

United Methodist Communications offers an online [Welcoming Ministry course](http://www.umcom.org).

Remember that welcoming visitors is the responsibility of the entire congregation. All members need to embrace welcoming strategies and behaviors. Are your actions, facial expressions and gestures telling new comers that your heart and mind is truly open?



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