

The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

August 2015, Issue

Published July 24

Save the Date! FALL KICKOFF PICNIC

Last fall, we had the opportunity to come together for worship and fellowship as we celebrated our church's bicentennial. We had so much fun, we're going to do it again! "But it's not our bicentennial anymore," you might be thinking. That's okay! We have so much to celebrate: the blessing of another year, the fellowship of our church family, and the many gifts we share together in this community. We are excited to kick off a new program year with great food, fellowship, and wonderful music!

Fall Kickoff Potluck & Concert on the Square

Sunday, September 13

We will have one worship service at 10:00.

Potluck on the square around noon.

Live music will begin at 12:30.



September 13





Sunday Mornings
Through September 6
 8:30 Worship on the Lawn
 10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary

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"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

Matthew 7: 24-27

us, although I am quite certain not all of what we will experience is within our present "box." I have enjoyed a summer so far that is beyond my prior experience. I hope I am not simply asking for soil samples, but looking for new solutions, new experiences, life giving not life taking activity. I pray the rest of the summer brings you the same... Peace enough for the day.

Pastor Clark

OLD CELL PHONES WANTED



Bring your old phone to the coat room collection bin for safe recycling, and earn money for our church Missions Fund!

Have an old cell phone collecting dust and using up space in your junk drawer? Why not recycle it?

Chicken Farming

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor



A man became disenchanted with the city life he was living. He decided to move to the country and start a chicken farm. He bought a farmhouse with some land around it, moved in, and bought 200 baby chicks. But they all quickly died. He bought 200 more baby chicks but, again, they all died a short time later. Puzzled and distressed, the man wrote to the county agricultural agent and described everything that had happened. He concluded his letter, "I want very much to be a successful chicken farmer. Therefore, can you tell me: Have I been planting the chicks too close together or too deep?" Whereupon the county agent wrote back and said, "I can't answer your question until you send me a soil sample."

Summer continues. I enjoy seeing you and hearing of your vacations, your reunions, your fun and play. Summer is a time when we take it easy, yet allow ourselves to be stretched a bit. In our laid back style, we allow some things to be near us, some people to enter our inner circle that might have a hard time getting in there the rest of the year.

We are part of a wonderful church that has built a house on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. No winds will blow it down. My prayer as we plan for the fall is that some of our summertime acceptance will come along into September and beyond. God has great plans for

ministries
 OF *Caring*



The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit those who may be lonely and looking for support or someone to lend an ear. Contact Pastor Barbara, 440-799-3126, to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one.



Brecksville United Methodist Women

Fill the Truck for Missions and Easter Seals!

UMW is once again "filling the truck" for Easter Seals on **September 19 and 20**. The collection is for your unwanted clothes, comforters, towels, shoes and purses (anything that is cloth—even stained items are OK!) Your donations will be re-used, resold, or recycled and proceeds will benefit both the UMW missions programs and children and adults with disabilities served by Easter Seals Northern Ohio. Start filling plastic bags with your donations now, and bring them to the Fellowship Hall stage **starting August 14**. Use your own bag, or pick up an Easter Seals bag from the church office or parlor. The Easter Seals bags include tags explaining the drive and are a great way to tell your friends about the collection!

Home Days Recap

Although the weather did not fully cooperate with sunny days, it was not a total "rainout" for UMW. Our Mission Fund has an addition of \$4,600. A big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

Clip Those Box Tops and Labels!

Just a reminder that UMW is still collecting "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education" for Henderson Settlement (Frakes, Kentucky) and pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House (Cleveland, Ohio). There are labeled baskets for your labels and box tops in the first floor coat room!

Prevent Teen Suicide: Special Presentation, September 2

Did you know that one in five high school students seriously consider suicide? Or that it's the second leading cause of death for Ohio teens? UMW is changing the day and time for our September program, as we want everyone to learn about this important topic. **The date is Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 pm.** Our speaker will be Elaine Myers from Suicide Prevention Education Alliance. "Into the Light" focuses on recognizing teen depression and preventing teen suicides. The Life Act program is part of the Brecksville/Broadview Hts. School curriculum. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.



Helping Women in Need

RAHAB is a non-profit Christian ministry devoted to rescuing and restoring women who have been trafficked into prostitution in Akron, Ohio. Evening Circle has made a commitment to help fulfill the ongoing needs of the Rahab Safe House, home to several women and their counselors. Want to help? Target and Walmart cards are very welcome. If you'd prefer to shop, there is a gift registry at Target (registered under RAHAB). There is also a continuous need for toiletries, gently used or new clothing, Bibles (old and new testament, no KJV), recent Christian books and reading glasses. For a complete list, stop by the table by the church office or click this link: rahab-ministries.org/volunteer.htm. Bring your donations to the collection bin in the first floor coat room by August 31. Thank you!



recognizing depression • preventing suicide

**Wednesday,
September 2**

7 pm

The Parlor

Suicide is the...

**leading cause
of death for
teens, after
accidents**

80%

People with depression respond favorably to treatment 80% of the time and almost all get relief from their symptoms. But first, depression has to be recognized.

13 minutes

The amount of time that passes between suicides in the USA

**4 out of 5 teens
who attempt
suicide give
clear warning
signs**



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

On The Move

Fred and Olive Priest have moved
and asked us to share their new
address with their church family:

Fred and Olive Priest

Carriage House
175 Shady Lane Drive, Apt 122
Norwalk, OH 44857
(419) 660-9482

Rev. Russ and Mrs. Ellen Martin
are moving south, to the heart of
North Carolina, to enjoy time with
their children and grandchildren!
As of August 28, you will find
them at:

3750 Seabury Court
Burlington, NC 27215

Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris Toth and
Jason Duckworth, who were mar-
ried at their home in Ft. Lauder-
dale, Florida on Tuesday, July 21.

Thank you!

"Thank you for all your prayers
and cards. It meant so much to me
to know so many people were
thinking about me. My church
family is wonderful."

- Scott Hastings



Daniel Jaszczak	1	Valorie Bender	10	Joan Olszko	19
Sally Jones	1	Allison Engler	10	Roger Wadsworth	20
Tish Kwiatkowski	1	Ryan Shijo	10	Grace Auble	21
Skip Smith	1	Beth Dadas	11	Mark Robinson	21
Susan Hurst	2	Maddie Holt	11	Nathan Robinson	21
Katrina Orr	2	Heather Manocchio	11	Rebecca Urso	21
Nick Orr	2	Lori Rusterholz	11	Jill Zawada	21
Kaitlyn Robinson	2	Trey Shively	12	Ann Zupanc	22
Chris Davis	3	Mark Vastartis	12	Chelsea Croy	24
Bennett Eberhardt	3	John Galik	13	Andy Dorman	24
Karen Fisher	3	Tanya Palmer	13	Denise BonTempo	25
Jeff Hastings	3	Lue Andree	14	Helen Lee	26
Steven Vastartis	3	Aleyna Gee	14	Christopher Nurre	26
J.T. Zawada	3	Beverly Gooding	14	Bridget Gee	27
Catherine Derry	4	Dave Meek	14	Amelia Guell	27
Kristi Eberhardt	4	Barbara Tereshko	14	Diane Pidwell	27
Joan Filips	4	Kathy Auble	15	Bryn Bisco	28
Judy Novak	4	Chuck Gezze	15	Janet Nelson	28
Karen Walburn	5	Nickie Myers	16	Don Southam	28
Frank Pasek	6	Matthew Johnson	17	Kristin Bisco	29
Joan Martin	7	Karin Meyer	17	Jamie Hocutt	29
Mary Jane Opatrny	7	George Diver	18	James Lesinski	29
Jeffrey Mihalich	8	Nancy Lundholm	18	Marge Haseley	30
Jim Rollins	8	Sarah Lundholm	18	Pat Neville	30
Laina Culley	9	Bob Tschannen	18	Grant Palmer	30
Betty Monnin	9	Robin Engler	19	Andrew Scott	31



As people of faith, we find God's pres-
ence 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. Peo-
ple like the members of our Men's En-
semble, who enliven our worship with
beautiful music, and who shared their
talents with members of our church con-
ference at the Open Table Worship at

Lakeside in June. Bill Wofford, whose lovely floral arrangement graced the sanc-
tuary as we bid farewell to Chris Toth one Sunday. The United Methodist Wom-
en who answered a call to ministry and served a funeral reception, after spending
a weekend baking and serving a couple hundred pies (and more) for Home Days!



What an amazing week we had at Brecksville UMC's G-Force VBS - singing, dancing, playing and learning about God. We learned to **MOVE** in the direction God wants us to and **ACT** in a way that is pleasing to God. We learned that we are expected to **CARE** for our friends and neighbors and about ways to **FOLLOW** Christ's example for living while we **SHARE** what we have with others.

We are so thankful for all of the volunteers involved in VBS this year. Those who decorated, donated supplies, volunteered their time, prayed, and supported the effort—it couldn't have happened without you!



Every day started and ended with fun in Fellowship Hall, then the kids moved along to craft, science, games and snack. We learned about God's unstoppable love and discovered how to fuel up and move in and through life with God. *Photo: Smith*

Our volunteer team is the driving force behind the success of our VBS program. All the money in the world could not take the place of the time and energy they devoted to the children of our church and the community. Thank you all for putting your faith into action! *Photo: Gee*

Each day, we learned a velocity verse from the Bible. Day three's action word was CARE, and the verse was "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2, CEB *Photo: Krolikowski*



On day four, the kids learned the story of Bartimaeus and how he chose to follow Jesus after being healed. When the leader said the word "follow" the kids would shout, "Let's Go!" Crew leaders shepherded the kids from one activity to the next, and the church was filled with fun and laughter in the hallways between activities. This VBS is for kids aged three to fifth grade, and we welcomed many kids from our community. We hope to see you all again next July for VBS 2016! *Photo: Krolikowski*

Donations of new and gently used play equipment (balls, bikes, jump ropes, and the like) will be sent to the Twice Blessed Free Store on 65th and Bridge in Cleveland. The store is an urban outreach ministry of Rocky River United Methodist Church, serving families who are struggling on a daily basis to improve their lives. *Photo: Huber*

Staff Question of the Month

What is Your FAVORITE SNACK?

How well do you know your church staff? This week, Staff Parish Relations Committee asks, "What's your favorite snack?" Can you guess who gave each answer?

- A. Hmm... Chocolate.
- B. Cheese and crackers.
- C. Pretzels.
- D. Wish I could say something healthy, but the truth is that I snack on a variety of junk food.
- E. Hands down—Swiss Chocolate!
- F. Soft pretzels and mustard.
- G. Hummus and pretzel chips.
- H. Oreos, Nutter Butters, and chips.
- I. Radishes all day. And ice cream. (But not together.)

Who said it?

A. Courtney, B. Jenny, C. Leslie, D. Jeff, E. Pastor Barb, F. Pastor Clark, G. Joy, H. Scott, I. Melanie

We hope you're enjoying this feature! If you have a question to suggest, please send it to Melanie. Call 440-526-8938, office@brecksvilleumc.com

YOUTH NEWS

VBS Recap

Our group of 10 middle school students had a great time this year with VBS: Redefined! We spent the week volunteering around the community, at a nursing home, the Metroparks, and congregation members' homes. The students started each day learning about a different Bible verse, and said they left the week having learned how Jesus calls us to serve more than be served. Thanks for such a great week, middle schoolers!



Summer Bible Study

This month, we'll wrap up our all-girls summer Bible study. So far this summer, we've had some great conversations about friendship, purity, and other real-life topics. Join us for our last two weeks, as we continue to discuss what it looks like to live a Christian life as a twenty-first century teenager.

Back-to-School Kick-off Party

Keep your eyes out for an invitation to this year's Back-to-School Kick-off Party, coming later this month! This will be a time when we welcome our rising 6th and 9th graders to their new youth groups, and enjoy an afternoon of great food and fun!

Russia Mission Team Thanks You!



The students, teachers and caregivers from the Oboyan, Russia Orphanage send their sincere appreciation for all the generous gifts, donations and prayers received from the BUMC congregation. The gift bag items were well received by all of the students, ages 8 to 18. They do not have anything of their own at the orphanage, so they were really surprised and happy to open their gifts on the last day of the VIM team's visit. The cars, planes, games, cards, writing paper, pens, makeup and especially the Dum Dum suckers made in Ohio brought lots of smiles to their faces. Thank you does not say enough! - Bruce McCrodden

2015 SUMMER BOOK SERIES

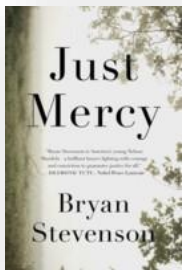
Wednesday Evenings 7 pm: July 29 & August 26

You are invited to be a part of open and honest conversation on the theme of violence as it manifests itself, both in war and in times of supposed peace. Discussion will be led by Joy Parker, Director of Worship, 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. There is no charge for book discussion (other than the cost of the books); dessert and beverages will be provided.

- July 29 at 7 pm.**

Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America
by Adam Winkler (2013)

Wednesday, August 26 at 7 pm



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.] Look for Stevenson's TED talk "We Need to Talk About Justice" online: www.ted.com/talks

Learn more about these titles on our website!

For more information, visit www.brecksvilleumc.com
or contact Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com.



This year, a change has been made to our committee calendar. Until now, committee terms ended and began in July. This posed challenges in scheduling, planning, and ministry. To correct this, a decision was made to begin new terms with the new calendar year. Those currently serving will have an extended term this year, allowing those nominated for the next term to begin their work in January, during the program year. It is our hope that this will be a great improvement.

Are you are interested in serving on a committee in the new year? Please contact Pastor Clark at 440.526.8938 or pastor@brecksvilleumc.com.



You can help unlock a world of opportunity for the students at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. All you need is a pair of scissors. Our UMW collects Campbell's Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education. Clip the symbols from products and bring them to the collection bin in the coat room. Learn more at www.labelsforeducation.com or www.boxtopsforeducation.info.

SUMMER CHOIR First Sundays

9:15 Rehearsal
Sing at 10 o'clock
All ages!
Come sing!

SUMMERTIME

Our next Summer Choir opportunity is Sunday, August 2! We will gather at 9:15 in the Sanctuary and sing at the 10:00 worship during the offertory. Have you convinced yourself that summer choir isn't for you? Think again! Last month, singers ranged in age from 12 to 60+ – some experienced singers and some new faces – and there is always room for one more!

AUGUST 2015

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <i>Diane Pidwell and Jack Drescher</i>						1 <i>Church Wedding</i>
2 Communion Sunday Summer Choir 8:30 Worship <i>on the Lawn</i> 10 Worship <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	3 5:30 Kickboxing 7 Girl Talk Bible Study	4 10 Staff Meeting 7 Evangelism 7:30 Zumba	5	6 <i>Brown & Sendrey Mowing</i> 	7	8 <i>Recital</i>
9 8:30 Worship <i>on the Lawn</i> 10 Worship <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	10 5:30 Kickboxing 7 Girl Talk Bible Study 8 Council on Education	11 11 Staff Meeting 7 Council on Ministries 7:30 Zumba	12	13 <i>Gee & Gee Mowing</i>	14	15
16 8:30 Worship <i>on the Lawn</i> 10 Worship <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	17 5:30 Kickboxing	18 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees 7:30 Zumba	19 7:30 Men's Ensemble Rehearsal	20 <i>Auble & Kuban Mowing</i> First day of school, BBH! 	21 <i>Brookside Food Delivery</i> 	22
23 YSP Sunday 8:30 Worship <i>on the Lawn</i> 10 Worship <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	24 5:30 Kickboxing	25 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance	26 7 Summer Book Discussion Group	27 <i>Bloch & Campbell Mowing</i>	28 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	29
30 8:30 Worship <i>on the Lawn</i> 10 Worship <i>in the Sanctuary</i>	31 5:30 Kickboxing					

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...

- As you pray for yourself today, seek a spirit of humility, civility and grace. Thank God for his work in your heart and in your life.
-Psalm 139:1-6
- Pray for your pastor, and for all who participate in worship leadership. Give thanks for their gifts. Greet someone in worship with whom you have never spoken before. Welcome one another in Christian love.
- Matthew 25:35-40

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
June 21	58	NA	102	-140
June 28	62	NA	120	-118
July 5	62	NA	87	-151
July 12	106	NA	68	-126
July 19	90	NA	125	-85

We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. Don't take a vacation from church this summer! Are you making meaningful worship a priority in your life?

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
June 21	\$5,666
June 28	\$7,834
July 5	\$10,903
July 12	\$13,930
July 19	\$6,072

SERVICE

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

- ▶ Donate to the UMW Evening Circle's Drive for the Rahab Ministries safe house. A variety of new and used items are needed, including toothpaste, Bibles, and socks. See the article inside for details!
- ▶ Be part of the Bike Round up this summer! Donate a used bike, money for bike parts, or help spruce up the donated bikes for kids in need.
- ▶ Be a part of the Fall Fun Day festivities. Planning starts now! Join the team! Call the office to sign up.
- ▶ Donate to the UMW back to school supply drive for Brookside or the ongoing food drive for Brookside.

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

Furthering Mission by Gathering at The Table

By Rick Wolcott, Director of Communications for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

In order to serve a community, you must first learn about – and become part of – that community.

That's something that the Urban Mission in Steubenville (Ohio Valley District) has done well for many years.

The Urban Mission continually explores new ways to communicate with the local congregations that support its ministries with the low-income population of the Ohio Valley.

In March the non-profit faith community changed the name of its Ministry Council to the Table.

"We organized the Table around the premise that anyone who has a heart for mission is welcome to 'the Table,'" said the Rev. Ashley Steele, executive director of the Urban Mission. "At the Table, we eat, we network and we provide resources for members to take home and utilize in their own church or place of worship."

The Table meets every two months. The first meeting in March featured a meal and conversation about the importance of communion and making a "place at the table" for all people.

The May meeting focused on holy conferencing and holy conversation.

"We used United Methodist resources to encourage participants to have meaningful conversations around the table in their home, at work, and in their churches," Steele said. "We also provided helpful tools to use when it comes to discussing hot button issues in our society today."

In early July members of the Table gathered for a picnic meal on the porch of the Urban Mission and then hit the streets. More than 40 people – including many youth – took part in a guided-tour prayer walk of the eight blocks that surround the Urban Mission.

The walk highlighted the spiritual importance of the

neighborhood. The group stopped to offer prayer at Steubenville Big Red High School, at the local fire station, and in front of neighborhood churches, ministries, and businesses. The evening concluded with the group gathering one last time in a large circle to offer prayer for the entire community.

"It was our goal to show those in attendance that prayer walks can be held in every community and that these kind of walks can serve multiple purposes," Steele said. "Not only does it provide an opportunity to pray God's blessings on a neighborhood, but it also helps to give perspective."

"What we found is that you can learn a lot by just walking around a community. You get to know the people, where they live, how they live, what's there, and what's not there. You see bright spots and you see blighted spots. You see faces of people, you learn names, and that's what helps to form relationships."

Steele hopes that those who participated in the Table's prayer walk will take the experience back to their local church and try it out in their own neighborhoods.

"Right now we have over 30 churches, of all denominations, participating in the Table. Besides this great show of ecumenicalism, one positive outcome that we weren't expecting is that we also have 'mission-minded' individuals who don't have a church connection, but felt like the Table was a place for them to live out their call. The end result is that they are connecting with 'mission-minded' churches that they were unaware of before," she said.

The next gathering of the Table will be September 10. The group will study information contained in the book **When Helping Hurts** by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, and in two books by Robert Lupton, **Toxic Charity** and **Charity Detox**.

"It is our hope to have an honest conversation with pastors, church members, and non-profits to discern what is working and what isn't when it comes to mission and outreach in our communities," Steele said.

Learn more about the Urban Mission and the Table by visiting www.urbanmission.org.

**Rick Wolcott is director of Communications for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.*



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