

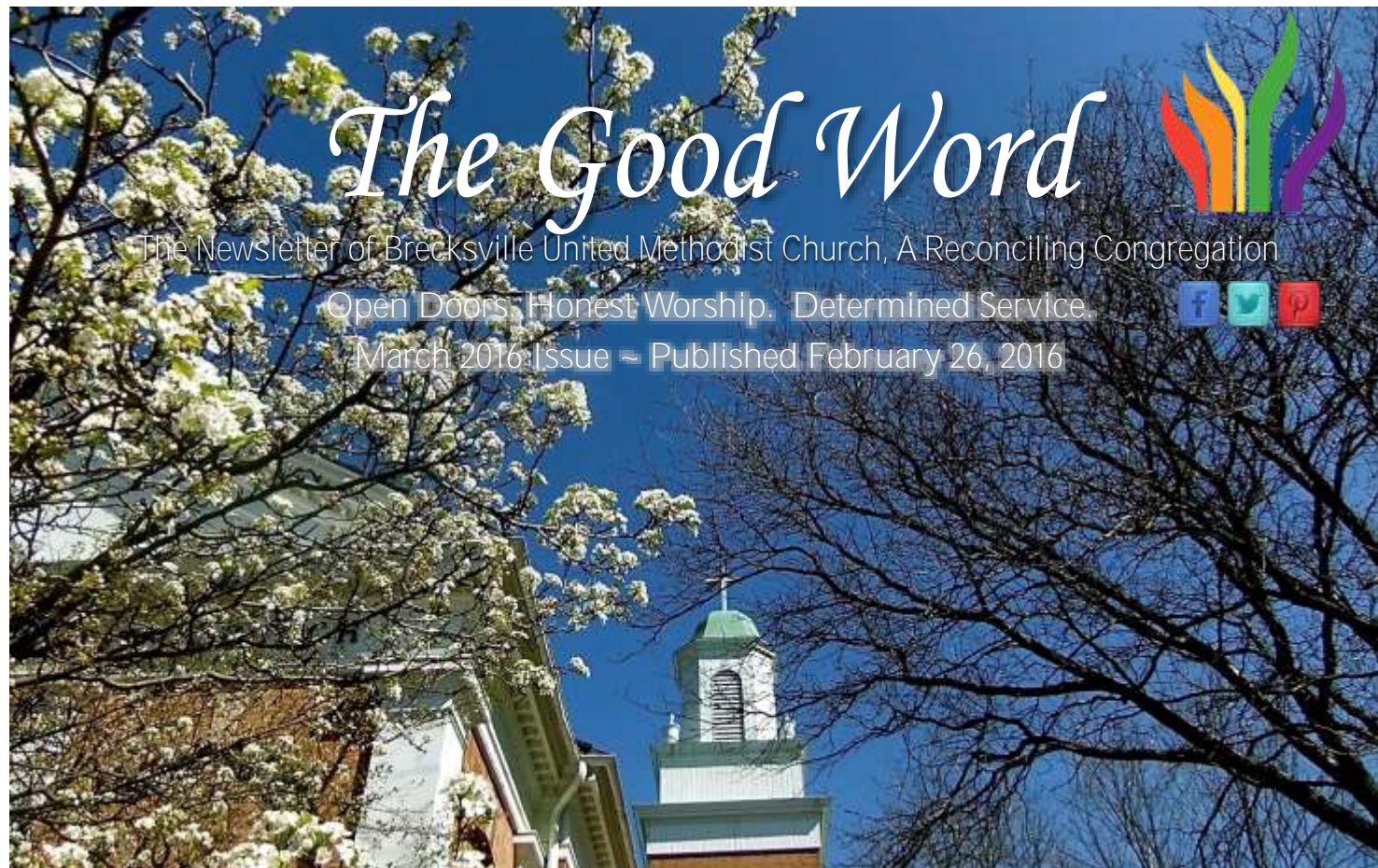
The Good Word



The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

March 2016 Issue ~ Published February 26, 2016



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PRAY REFLECT MEDITATE LISTEN SING CELEBRATE

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

March 6

"No One You Can Save Who Can't Be Saved"
[Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32]

March 13

"Love is All You Need" [John 12:1-11]



Walk the Labyrinth in the Chapel
Sunday through Friday through March 25

PALM SUNDAY, March 20

8:45 and 11:15 Services: Come wave your palm branches in joyful anticipation of the arrival of Christ!

GOOD FRIDAY, March 25

7:30 pm Tenebrae Service: The Service of Darkness
Join us for this quiet and reflective time of worship as we recognize the gravity and magnitude of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice.

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27

7 am Sunrise Service at Blossom Hill Pavilion
Gather with friends and neighbors at the Blossom Hill Pavilion on Oakes Road for worship, Scripture readings and a short message. Dress casually and in warm clothes. Bring a blanket, a lawn chair and a friend and join us to watch the sunrise as we celebrate the resurrected Lord.

8:45 and 11:15 Services at the Church

Join us for triumphant worship celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

There will be no education hour offerings on Easter Sunday.



Exactly As He Said

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

[Mark 16:1-8](#)

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10 Education Hour

Classes for All Ages!

11:15 Traditional Worship

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music & Worship:

Joy E. Parker

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Christian Education:

Jenny Gee

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Youth Ministry:

Courtney Drescher

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Church Treasurer: Becky Paroda

finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Assistant Office Manager:

Leslie Miller

leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

Church School Registrar:

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

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Brecksville, OH 44141

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Editor, Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Once upon a time there was a hard-working and generous farmer who had several idle and greedy sons. On his deathbed, he told them that they would find his treasure if they were to dig in a certain field. As soon as the old man was dead, the sons hurried to the field and proceeded to dig it up from one end to the other in search of the treasure. The longer they worked, the more desperate they became. Yet they did not find one single ounce of gold.

Surveying the field, they reasoned that in his generosity their father must have given his gold away during his lifetime. Just as they abandoned their search, it occurred to them that since the land had been prepared they might as well sow a crop. They planted wheat, which produced an abundant yield. When it matured they sold their crop and prospered.

After the harvest was in, the sons thought again about the rare possibility that they might have missed the buried gold. Once again they dug up their fields, with the same result.

After several years they became accustomed to labor and to the cycle of the seasons, something which they had not understood before. Finally they understood their father had been training them to become hard-working farmers. As time passed they became wealthy through the work of their hands and no longer wondered about the hidden hoard.

“You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now-on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he has gone ahead of you to Galilee. You’ll see him there, exactly as he said.”

Looking among the living...

Pastor Clark

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.



Our March Coffee Hour hosts
will be

Trustees

Thank you, February hosts
Finance Committee!





Open Umbrellas Against Human Trafficking

According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2015, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 20.9 million. Worldwide, 3 per 1,000 people are victims of human trafficking. To help raise awareness of this problem, our UMW took part in the effort to spell out “We are United Methodist Women opening umbrellas to intercept human trafficking” in pictures at this year’s Super Bowl in Santa Clara, California.



UMW Meeting, Thursday, March 3. Come hear speaker Chuck Behrens, chaplain for Hospice of the Western Reserve, present “Spirituality: Tapping

Into Your Inner Peace and Strength.” An accomplished speaker and advisor, Behrens received his Masters in Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary and has worked in a spiritual care capacity with Hospice of the Western Reserve since 1994. Continental breakfast and fellowship in the Parlor at 9:30, program at 10. All are welcome!



Evening Circle Makes Jewelry to Cheer! Come join the Circle in the Parlor on Wednesday, March 2 at 7 pm and learn to make jewelry.

Creations will be donated to Ears to You, a local organization working to boost the self-esteem and lift the spirits of cancer victims of all ages. Want to learn more about the organization? Visit their website: www.earstoyou.org.

Helping Girls with a Basic Need



Through the end of April, UMW will be collecting donations of underwear, bras, and socks for the Westside Community House West Side Sisterhood, an after-school and summer arts program

preparing girls from Cleveland’s west side for womanhood and their life beyond. The items are for girls age 10 to 18. Can you help? There will be a box in the coat room for your donations. Need more info? Contact Gretchen Mates: 440-526-6481.



Palm Sunday Bake Sale
Why slave over a hot oven? Shop the UMW Palm Sunday Bake Sale before or after church services on March 20. Your purchases

support the UMW Mission Fund which benefits programs supporting women and children locally and around the world.

Calling all bakers! If you would like to donate to the sale, bring your treats to the church kitchen (wrapped for sale) on Saturday, March 19 between 3 - 5 pm. Questions? Contact Gretchen Mates: 440-526-6481. Thank you!



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

Happy Sweet Sixteen, Erin Geel!

On Sunday, February 28, we will celebrate the baptism of Matthew David Gardner, son of David and Emily. Join us in welcoming the Gardners as part of the worldwide Christian community and in promising to support them in bringing Matthew up in the faith.

The forty couples renewing their marriage vows on Valentines Day marked a collective milestone! Anniversaries of those participating ranged from one year to sixty-four years and together marked over 1000 years of marriage. It was a beautiful time of reflecting on the blessings of the past and looking forward to the future. What a wonderful celebration!

Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!

Melanie Smith
 office@brecksvilleumc.com
 440-528-8938



Brianna Diver	1	Cliff Thielman	9	David Sibits	18
Jack Falko	1	Matthew Auble	9	Bob Hudacek	18
Eileen Yates	2	George Gee	10	Chris Archacki	18
Edie Coman	2	Mike Kubek	10	Matthew Gardner	18
Mary Kotnik	2	Bob Bloch	11	Kristen Kubek	20
Phyllis Phillips	5	Janet James	12	Stosh Skoczen	20
Tiffany Jacob	5	Tyler Hulten	13	Philip Storey	24
Ron Goodin	6	Kaden Juniper	13	Liz Fredrick	25
Caitlin Drescher	6	Lisa Sibits	14	Robin Wilson	26
Donald Burkle	7	Sydney Hudacek	14	Mallory Krolkowski	26
Megan White	7	Lindsay Dorman	15	Carol Kubicek	27
Ruth Ann Bilek	8	Lee Derry	16	Joe Holmes	27
Kaleb Dumot	8	Samuel Eberhardt	16	Kim Rybak	30
		Joann Fox	17	Hannah Shively	30
		Carly Johnson	17	Madeline Piorkowski	31



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings this month, we lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. People like all of the chefs and volunteers who put together this year's Chili Cook-Off. Such fun! Kelly Brown, who shared her gifts to help make Children's Worship Sunday a special celebration of the unique talents God gives each of us. Julie Kubek, whose help with Sunday School is invaluable. Ruth Herman and all of the wonderful ladies of the United Methodist Women who helped make the Vow Renewal reception such a beautiful and meaningful event. Don Krolkowski, whose photography and web design help tell the story of our ministries. Bev Gooding, Lori Ann Rusterholtz, and Linda Schmidt who were such a big part of the Valentine Reception. You helped bring back a lot of beautiful memories for folks! Craig Czarnota, Shawanna Kerr, Linda and Megan Rohrer who got out the brooms and mops and dusters and made the stage shine for Music with a Mission. Michelle Shively who coordinated the event's silent auction. Our fantastic MC's and performers and all of the youth and volunteers who prepared and served a great meal. And of course, everyone who attended. Music with a Mission is a labor of love in so many ways. Thank you for being part of it!

Serving in Love

PEARL ROAD UMC, CLEVELAND—What's it like to serve 200 meals to people in need on a winter Sunday evening? Awesome! On January 31, twelve members of our church, working in partnership with volunteers from The United Church of Christ on Ridge Road, Parma served meals to over 150 people at Pearl Road Methodist Church in Old Brooklyn, and packed at least another 50 take home meals to go. Our super soup chef, Al Harper, prepared a highly praised kicked up chicken and rice soup, *à la Emeril Lagasse*. The crew prepared salads, cut cake and served meals and drink to the quests, which included both individuals and families.



Kathy Goebel, Janine Telischak, Gail Huth and Leslie Miller

Shelly Meek, Tim & Leslie Millar, Janine Telischak, Catherine Vastartis, Kathy Goebel, Bruce McCrodden and Doug & Gail Huth were all part of the team working together to get everyone fed. Overheard after the event, "We received much more than we gave."

Pearl Road United Methodist Church, located near the corner of Pearl Road and Memphis Avenue, serves meals to anyone in need on the second Thursday and the last two Sundays of every month and our church sends a team to help about four times a year.

Consider joining us next time! Our next adventure will be a shift at The Greater Cleveland Food Bank on Saturday March 5, from 8 am to noon. Sign up in the Parlor after service on Sunday. Want to learn more? Contact any member of the Missions Committee. - *Doug Huth, Missions Committee*

I did. I do. I always will.

On Valentine's Day, our church celebrated love and marriage with a vow renewal service. Pastor Clark told the 40 couples participating that he wanted to celebrate with them the commitments that they had made to each other.

"There are over 1,000 years of marriage represented in this room," he said. "I think it's a wonderful testimony to the power of the word, both God's Word and the vows that you've given to each other to stand by each other no matter what."

Following the renewal of vows, the couples headed to Fellowship Hall, where the United Methodist Women held a good old fashioned church wedding reception, complete with cake, nuts and mints. Couples shared stories, had their pictures taken, and received a Certificate of Renewal of Vows. The punch served was a recipe enjoyed at Carol and Harry Wilson's reception many years ago.

"The sweetest thing I saw was when two parents were together saying their vows and their child was in between them," Kathy Stein said. "It was so touching." A collection of photos from the event is posted on our church website: www.brecksvilleumc.com (click the photo galleries link under the "About Us" tab.)



Rev. Clark Stein



Christian congregations worldwide mark the start of Holy Week with Palm Sunday, which we celebrate with the jubilant waving of palms. Unfortunately for the communities where the palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us. We're helping to change that.

We purchase our palms from The University of Minnesota's Eco-Palms program, ensuring that the leaves were harvested in an environmentally sensitive manner by workers getting paid a fair price.

As you celebrate Palm Sunday, please say a prayer of thanks for those who harvested our palms, for their families, for their communities, and for those who minister to them.



Interfaith Passover Seder Tuesday, April 5

Would you like to learn more about the Passover story? Hundreds of people from many faith traditions will gather to experience the Seder at Fairmount Temple, enjoying the evening's rituals, music and a small sampling of food. A group from our church attends each year. Can we reserve a seat for you? Contact the office:

440-526-8938 or

office@brecksvilleumc.com

A weekend of worship, education and music.
Spiritual renewal and growth for pastors, worship leaders, music directors and volunteers.
Helpful ideas for enlivening and deepening progressive worship in your church.

LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 18, 19 AND 20

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OH

BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM/RETREAT



WITH RICHARD BRUXVOORT COLLIGAN

March 18: Friday evening worship at 7:30pm (free!)

March 19: Saturday workshop with registration beginning at 9:00am (\$25, includes lunch).
Saturday evening concert at 7:30pm (free!)

March 20: Sunday morning worship services at 8:45am and 11:15am (free, of course!)



You're Invited! The Staff Parish Relations Committee and Pastor Clark invite you to join them on Sunday March 6 at 12:30 pm as we discuss the Director of Youth Ministry position. With Courtney's departure approaching in May, what are your visions and dreams for the future of our youth ministry? We will have two concurrent "round table" sessions, one for youth grades six through twelve (lead by Craig Czarnota) and one for adults (lead by Pastor Clark.) *If you can, please RSVP to the office by Friday March 4 at noon, so we'll know how much pizza to order!* 440.526.8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com.

Save the Date!

Now that temperatures have finally dropped, we could all use a little reminder of the Spring to come! Mark your calendars for our Annual Scholarship Golf Outing, to be held on Saturday, June 18, at Briarwood Country Club. There are so many ways you can get involved and be a part of this incredibly fun and family-friendly event that enables our Music/Worship Scholarship for graduating seniors.



High School Youth Group – All ninth through twelfth grade students are invited to join us each Sunday night for a time of study and fellowship! This month, we'll be continuing to work through our video series on why reading the Bible can be so impactful in our lives. Please note, we will NOT meet on Easter Sunday. See you there!

Middle School Youth Group – Sixth through eighth graders meet each Wednesday after school from 3-4:30 pm. This spring, we'll be taking a closer look at each of the parables Jesus tells, and figuring out what they're supposed to mean for us today! All are welcome! Please note, we will NOT meet on March 30 while students are on Spring Break.

YSP Plant Sale – Our annual plant sale, benefitting the Youth Service Project, kicks off on March 20! You will be able to purchase all of your flowers, herbs, and hanging baskets while simultaneously supporting our youth ministry program. Be on the lookout for details and order forms later this month.

Important Dates:

- March 6 – All-Youth Dinner, 6 pm in Fellowship Hall
- March 13 – Confirmation church visit (during Sunday school hour)
- April 9 – Confirmation volunteer morning at Twice Blessed Free Store
- April 17 – Final YSP payment due

Music with a Mission 2016 – On the Silver Screen!

Thank you for your amazing support of this year's Music with a Mission fundraiser! Our youth ministry program was able to raise over \$3,000 for our trip to Somerville, TN, this coming June. While in this small town on the outskirts of Memphis, we will help paint homes, build decks and wheelchair ramps, hang gutters and repair roofs, and bring the message and love of Jesus into the lives of countless residents. This trip truly is an invaluable experience for our young people as they continue to grow in their faith, and your generous and delightful involvement in our Music with a Mission fundraiser helps to make it all possible! A special thanks to Joy Parker for her countless hours spent preparing, rehearsing, and directing the show; to Mary Kotnik and Ruth Herman for their constant leadership in planning, organizing, and leading the cooking team; and to Michelle Shively for continually doing such a fantastic job creating baskets and supervising the silent auction. The success of our event would have never been possible without them!





BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Walk the Labyrinth during Lent Sunday through Friday in the Chapel. <i>Stop in anytime to experience this self-guided meditative tool.</i></p>		<p>1 10 Staff Mtg 7 Evangelism</p>	<p>2 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth 7 Evening Circle</p>	<p>3 9:30 UMW 7:30 Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7:30 Cleveland Food Bank</p>
<p>6 <i>Communion</i> 4th Sunday in Lent One Great Hour Sharing Girl Scout Sunday 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 12:30 Pizza w/Pastor 6 Youth Dinner 7 HS Youth Group</p>	<p>7 8:30 Lifeline Screening Brecksville Community Chorus (adults only) 7:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8 11 Staff Mtg 5 Children's Choir 7 COM 8 COE</p>	<p>9 6:30 Dawnbrk 1:30 American Guild of Organists Mtg 3 MS Youth</p>	<p>10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:15 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>11 5 Friday's@5</p>	<p>12 6 Western Reserve Emmaus</p>
<p>13 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 5th Sunday in Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship & Baptism 12:15 Music & Wor- ship Board 7 HS Youth Group</p>	<p>14 Brecksville Community Choruses 6 Community Chorus Board Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 10 Staff Mtg 5 Children's Choir 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memo- rials 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>16 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth</p>	<p>17 6:15 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>18 Food Delivery to Brookside 7:30 Worship with RBC</p> 	<p>19 Lenten Retreat 9 am Registration 7:30 Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Concert</p>
<p>20 <i>Palm Sunday</i> UMW Bake Sale Richard Bruxvoort Colligan Guest in Worship 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 7 HS Youth Group</p> 	<p>21 Brecksville Community Choruses 7:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance</p>	<p>23 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth</p>	<p>24 6:15 Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir</p> 	<p>25 9:30 UMW Board Meeting 7:30 Tenebrae Worship Service</p> 	<p>26</p>
<p>27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 7 Sunrise Service 8:45 Worship 11:15 Worship</p> 	<p>28 Brecksville Community Choruses 7:30 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>29 10 Staff Mtg 6:15 Men's Ensemble</p>	<p>30 6:30 Dawnbrk 3 MS Youth</p>	<p>31</p> 	 <p>Communion Stewards Kristi Eberhardt & Diane Pidwell</p>	

March 24—April 1: Brecksville Broadview Heights School District Spring Break

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 during the Advent season:

- Prayers for peace! *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*
- Prayers of joy! *Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.*
- Prayers of hope! *Where there is despair, let me sow hope.*
- Prayers of love! *Grant that I may not so much seek to console, but to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*
- *For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. And it is in dying, that we are born to eternal life. Amen* - St. Francis

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
Jan. 17	104	116	90	-106
Jan. 24	128	120	107	-65
Jan. 31	156	106	108	-36
Feb. 7	130	106	97	-73
Feb. 14	128	23	78	-94

We’ve set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. Think we can hit that goal before Christmas? We can, if you are 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 last publication of the *Good Word*.

Date	Offering
Jan. 17	\$6,641
Jan. 24	\$5,723
Jan. 31	\$18,036
Feb. 7	\$8,837
Feb. 14	\$12,947

SERVICE

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

- Spend the evening of March 2 making jewelry with the Evening Circle.
- Donate your old glasses to the UMW collection. They’ll be refurbished and given to someone in need!
- When you’re at the grocery store, add some canned food to your cart for the folks at Brookside.
- Join the Mission team on an upcoming trip to the Cleveland Food Bank or Pearl Road UMC.
- Donate undergarments for the West Side Sisterhood.
- Bake for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale—or purchase a treat. Proceeds benefit the UMW mission fund!

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.



PLEASE
give generously

March 6, 2016

UNITED
METHODIST

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

..... *your* GENEROUS GIFT TODAY

HELPS FAMILIES RECOVER, COMMUNITIES REBUILD
AND HOPE TO BE RESTORED AFTER DISASTER STRIKES

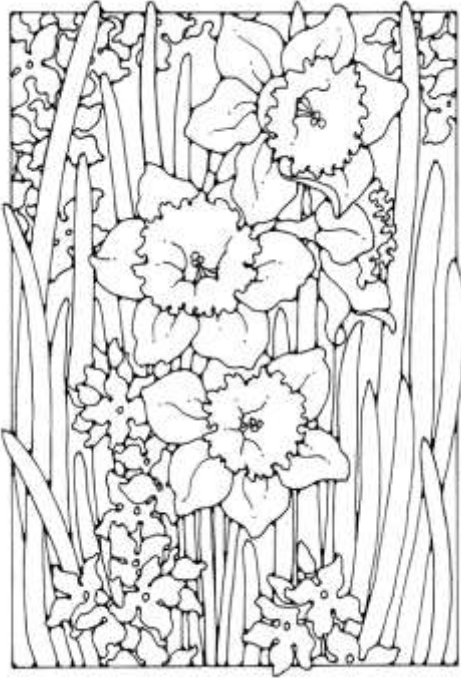


"They ... learn to socialize, to get along with other children, to share and engage with those around them. Their time at preschool can give them some sense of normalcy."

—ZEINAT FARHOUD,
educator at the Ein El Helweh facility

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that ... you may share abundantly in every good work."

—2 CORINTHIANS 9:8, NRSV



EASTER FLOWERS 2016

Help beautify our Easter Service, March 27, with flowers! Get your order form in soon, as no orders can be accepted after Sunday, March 13. Plants can be ordered to remember or honor someone you love, or to share with someone who cannot be with us in worship. Attach payment to this form (checks payable BUMC.)

___ Lily (\$8)

___ Tulip (\$8)

___ Daffodil (\$8)

___ Azalea (\$12)

___ Hydrangea (\$12)

TOTAL ATTACHED: _____

Given by: _____ Phone _____

☐ *in honor of:* _____

☐ *in memory of:* _____

☐ *to the Glory of God.*

Questions? Call the office! 440-526-8938

Check one: _____ I will take my flowers home after 11:15 worship.

_____ Give my flowers to someone who could not worship with us.

.....