



The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation



Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

April 2016 Issue ~ Published March 24, 2016



TWELVE CHURCHES

WORKING TOGETHER TO REHAB THREE HOMES IN THE BUCKEYE NEIGHBORHOOD THIS SUMMER!



OUR CHURCH PROVIDES:

1/12 THE FUNDS

1/12 THE LABOR

1/12 THE PRAYERS

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity believes in a world where everyone has a decent place to live. They work to end substandard housing by renovating simple, decent, affordable houses for lower income families. This summer, Brecksville United Methodist Church will help renovate 3 homes. We need 8 volunteers to work on site on each of three days: July 28, July 30, and August 4. Call the office to sign up! If you can't work on site, you can help by donating towards our goal of \$4,000, by providing lunch to our work team, and by praying for the work of the project and the people we'll be serving. Learn more about the project at the display in the Parlor. *Thank you!*



Before



After



Student Recital

On Saturday, April 9, at 7:30 pm, come hear the best and the brightest of our young musicians at BUMC. This recital will feature solos and ensembles by a variety of vocalists and instrumentalists, and this year's Music/Worship scholarship winners will also be announced. Following intermission, we will be treated to a 30-minute set by the BBHHS Jazz Ensemble. Don't miss this awesome night of music!

Brecksville Broadview Heights

Community Chorus *Spring Concert*

This year the Community Chorus will give their annual spring concert across the street at Brecksville United Church of Christ. Join them on Sunday, April 10, at 4:00 pm for some of the very best of traditional American music. Under the direction of Joy Parker, the program offers a little something for everyone! Come early. Parking and seating will fill up fast!

Youth Chorus Festival Concerts: *Give Us Hope!*

The Brecksville Broadview Heights Youth Choruses are teaming up with the Hudson Community Children's Chorus and Youth Chorus to present a pair of festival concerts that you won't want to miss! You have two opportunities to catch a phenomenal program featuring a program of high-energy multi-cultural music and inspirational messages around themes of vision and hope. A free-will offering will be collected at both programs, and all money raised will go to provide musical opportunities for students in impoverished areas, both in the United States and abroad.

- Sunday, April 24 at 4:00 pm – Brecksville United Methodist Church
- Sunday, April 30 at 5:00 pm – Christ Church Episcopal, Hudson



Where is God?

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

A couple had two little boys, ages eight and ten, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their small town, their two young sons were in some way involved. The parents were at wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior.

The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman. The husband said, "We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper." The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to speak with them individually.

The eight year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?"

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God?"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boys direction, "WHERE IS GOD?"

At that, the boy bolted from the room and ran straight home, slamming himself in the closet.

His older brother followed him into the closet and said, "What happened?"

The younger brother replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it."

Spring is busting out all over. Signs of new life surround us, as flowers push their way up through now unfrozen ground. Birds are singing, nesting, getting ready to nurse new birdies. And a tomb stands empty, another certain sign of new life. The occupant is no longer there. He lives, missing from the tomb, moving on ahead.

As I get older, it is increasingly interesting to me that God is a God of empty spaces. From still small voices, to the empty space beneath the stretching wings atop the Ark of the Covenant, to the empty space of a once occupied place of death, God is understood to occupy these places. As visible signs of new life, from flowers and buds, to birds and their young, make their way into our sight, may we also dare to look at the empty space of that tomb.

And that peek isn't just into Jesus' old resting place, but you can be guaranteed that your own tomb will be just as empty someday. New life walks the roads of creation. Anybody got an "Alleluia" deep inside for that? Happy Spring!

Abiding Peace,

Pastor Clark

YOUTH

NEWS

High School Youth Group meets every Sunday night from 7-9 pm (7-8 pm during All-Youth Dinner weeks) in the Youth Room! Join us as we spend time growing in community and discussing some of our toughest faith and life questions...plus the occasional game of hide-n-seek! This time is open to all ninth to twelfth grade students and their friends. Please note, we will NOT have High School Youth Group on April 17.

Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm in the Youth Room. All sixth through eighth graders are invited to join us for this awesome time of skits, Bible study, and plenty of snacks. See you there!

Final YSP Payment and Meeting, April 10 – All students planning to attend this summer's YSP trip, please remember that your final payment of \$100 is due at our meeting on April 10. Please also bring your completed Participant Information Form to this meeting (directions sent via email). If you are unable to attend this meeting, please email youth@brecksvilleumc.com!

GoApe! Zipline and Treetop Adventure – Join us for a fun trip to GoApe! in the Strongsville Metroparks on May 8! The course includes 5 ziplines and 42 treetop obstacles, including a Tarzan swing, spider's web, and jungle crossing. The non-refundable cost is \$50 per person and is due by April 3 (to reserve our timeslot at the course). Email Courtney at youth@brecksvilleumc.com or text (440)537-5508 if you have questions!

Youth Annual Conference – This year's Youth Annual Conference (YAC) is scheduled for June 10-12 at Lakeside, Ohio. This awesome weekend of retreat, worship, and training is open to all middle and high school students! The cost is \$60 per person, and includes transportation, lodging, registration, a t-shirt, and food for the whole weekend! Contact Courtney today at youth@brecksvilleumc.com or (440)537-5508 to reserve your spot or for more information.

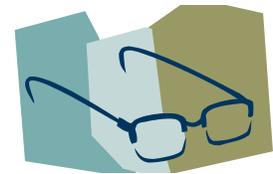
Important Confirmation Dates:

- April 9 – Final trip to Twice Blessed Free Store
- May 5 – Confirmation Dress Rehearsal
- May 15 – Confirmation Sunday

Youth Service Project Plant Sale – The annual YSP Plant Sale is underway! This is your chance to support our youth ministry program while simultaneously stocking up on all of your annual flats, hanging baskets, and potted herbs and geraniums. Pick up your order form in the Parlor, outside the church office, or online (www.brecksvilleumc.com/plants) and help support our summer mission trip! All orders and payments are due by April 17, and plant pick-up is May 7 from 10 am-noon.

Save the Date!

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.



New Life for Old Glasses

Bring your old glasses to the coat room collection bin (near Fellowship Hall). Our UMW delivers them to eye doctors who recycle them for those in need!



Our April Coffee Hour hosts will be
Church & Society
Thank you, March hosts
Trustees!

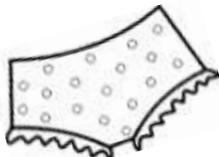


United Methodist Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

UMW Meeting, Thursday, April 7. Cleveland in the 1800's will be the topic of discussion at the April 7 United Methodist Women meeting. The morning begins at 9:30 with a continental breakfast and fellowship. At 10 o'clock, speaker Karen Lakus, Cultural Interpreter for Cleveland Metro Parks will begin her presentation. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!

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.

Help Wanted for Home Days! Grandma's Pies will be open for everyone's dining pleasure during Brecksville Home Days, June 24 to 26. Can you smell those pies baking? This labor of love is a big fundraiser for the UMW Mission Fund, but to make it happen this year, they need your help! If you can work the booth or help bake, please contact Ruth Herman, 330-467-3237 or Mary Kotnik, 330-467-4834.

Canned Food Drive. Hunger doesn't take a break in the spring. Help us fill the bin in the first floor coat room with non-perishable food, paper products and personal hygiene items. This ongoing ministry of the UMW, in partnership with the Brookside Food Center, continues year round!



Evening Circle, April 6
What is music therapy? Brenda Calovini will answer that question with a special presentation at the April 6 Evening Circle meeting. If you're curious

about the benefits of music therapy, come to the Parlor at 7 pm. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served!



UMW Fundraiser for Missions

Round up a group of friends and eat lunch, dinner or carryout for a good cause — UMW's mission projects!

Where: Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

When: Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Anytime between 11 am and 10 pm

What: Anyone dining at Creekside on Tuesday, April 12 who gives the server this flyer will have 20% of their bill (excluding alcoholic beverages) donated to our Brecksville United Methodist Women. A flyer is necessary for each bill. *Carryout is included!* Menu available at www.creeksiderestaurant.com or call 440-546-0555.

New Classes Begin April 3

ADULTS

Faith & Action: Two Sides, Same Coin

Before Lent, many of you participated in a course that examined the E-Word (Evangelism) and what that scary term might actually mean for us in the 21st century. One of the things we uncovered was the importance of being able to tell our stories about why Jesus is important to us and why our faith in God mobilizes us to be in ministry to others. Kendall Lancaster facilitated a wonderful class during Lent that helped us learn to tell our own faith stories in a meaningful way. Most recently, guest clinician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan invited Lenten retreat participants to explore the spiritual themes held within the Psalms: joy & thriving, desolation & lament, and wonder at the new and exciting things for which God may be making a way. Now, we hope to weave these themes together and take a look at the powerful relationship between our own growth and development as people of faith and the work that we are called to do in the community and in the world.

This class will be an awesome next step for those who have participated in these classes and retreats, but it will also be accessible and open to anyone, even if this is your first adult education experience of the year! The class will combine spiritual exercises, times for personal reflection, storytelling, and dreaming about the future God has for us as individuals and as a church. Some Sundays will include guest speakers and information about relevant topics affecting our community; other Sundays will be devoted to scripture and inward reflection.

As United Methodists, we are called “to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” What are we doing to grow and mature as disciples? How does that empower and embolden us to change the world? Come and be a part of the conversation!

Travel Through the Holy Land

The journey through the Holy Land continues! Drop in as we delve into stories from the Holy Land, examining the geography, what happened where, and just how we feel the impact of these events in our present day life of faith. Come experience the stories of the bible in their historical context, and join the discussion about why they still matter.



Save the date for VBS! Surf Shack is for kids pre-school through fifth grade. Camp Serve is for sixth through ninth graders. Learn more about both at www.brecksvilleumc.com/vbs



Earth Day and Every Day... do what you can!

Make a commitment to be the very best steward of God's creation that you possibly can. Don't add to the landfill, do a little extra footwork and keep your castoffs out of the waste stream.

In honor of Earth Day, April 22, here's an A-Z of local recycling resources, compiled by our Director of Christian Education, Jenny Geel!

Batteries: We have begun a recycling program here at BUMC. Place your worn out batteries in the proper receptacle found in the first floor coatroom collection site. Please separate single use batteries from rechargeable batteries and do not drop off any batteries that have begun to leak acid.

Bikes!! Brecksville UMC's Bike Round-up is about to begin its second year and has grown quite strong! Keep those bikes coming! Drop them off in the first floor coat room, and our bike mechanic team will refurbish them for people in need. Questions? Contact Jenny Gee, 440-526-8938 ext. 230 or education@brecksvilleumc.com.

Compact florescent bulbs (CFLs):

These bulbs contain mercury, and while the amount in one bulb may be small, the cumulative effect on soil and water is hazardous. Take your burned out CFLs to Lowes, TrueValue or Home Depot where they collect and recycle the bulbs.

Electronics: Drop off at the most convenient Best Buy location. Items are taken for free, except televisions for which there is a \$25 charge. If you live in Brecksville, TVs can be dropped off at the

community recycle event held on Saturdays from 8 am to noon at the service center. Check out all the items Best Buy will take here: <http://tinyurl.com/7rc9csh>

Miscellaneous items: You can also drop off political yard signs, small appliances, holiday lights and hair care, skin care and cosmetic packaging at Solid Waste District headquarters, 4750 East 131 Street in Garfield Heights. Marked collection bins are in the lobby. Hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. All Cuyahoga County residents are invited to take advantage of this recycling program. For more details, contact the district: 216-443-3749.

Paper: Bring your unwanted paper (newspaper, books, wrapping paper, anything paper) to our bins in the church parking lot. We earn money for our hunger fund for every ton of paper we recycle.

Styrofoam: The Solid Waste District accepts *white, formed blocks* of Styrofoam (no peanuts, foam sheeting, colored foam or food trays) at their facility at 4750 East 131 Street in Garfield Heights. A marked collection bin is located in the lobby; hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Take packing peanuts to the UPS Store or Kinkos. They will happily accept them to reuse.

Tires: When you buy new tires, dispose of your old tires through your tire retailer at the time of purchase. There is a small fee charged for tire disposal, which is a tax used for transporting and disposing of tires through state licensed facilities. If you already have tires at home, contact one of the following three stores who provide tire disposal for non-customers: Conrad's Tire Express, Firestone Auto Care, and National Tire and Battery.

Tools & (usable) Building Materials: The Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity ReStore accepts donations of tools (hand, power, and yard) appliances (10 years old or newer), windows/doors, cabinets, fixtures, sinks, furniture, lumber (6 ft. or longer) and more. All items must be in good, usable condition; they are cleaned and processed for sale to the general public. The Habitat ReStore has two locations: 2110 West 110th Street in Cleveland and 4601 Northfield Road in North Randall. Call (216) 429-3631 or visit www.gchfh.org/Restore

Yard Waste: Local registered compost facilities that accept yard waste include Boyas Excavating (216) 524-3620; Kurtz Brothers (216) 986-7031 and Tree Master Supply (216) 241-6744.

plant kindness
& gather love

YSP PLANT SALE
A FUNDRAISER FOR THIS SUMMER'S YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT TRIP
Orders due 4.17~ Pick up 5.7

www.brecksvilleumc.com/plants



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

Baptism is the beginning of a life-long journey of faith. It makes no difference whether you were baptized as an adult or as a child; we all start on that journey at baptism.

We celebrated a baptism in March and have two scheduled for April. These three baby boys are beginning their journey in the nurturing community of our church, where they will learn what God's love means. Help us to welcome:

Joshua Daniel Biladeau, (March 13) son of Allen and Melissa, grandson of Janet and Dan Biggs.

Austin Karn, (April 10) son of Anthony and Christine. (His brother Anthony was baptized here in 2013.)

Gabriel Mark Vastartis, (April 17) son of Alex and Jessica, and grandson of Catherine and Mark Vastartis.



Beryl Burkle	1	Andrew Fredrick	14	Judy Burroughs	21
Doug Holmes	1	Ed Jones	14	Maryanne Salsbury	21
Lauren Brinkmann	2	Jessilyn Mack	14	Marilyn Sewell	21
Leanne Davis	2	Addie Magee	14	Ralph Slifcak	22
Sherry Klodnick	3	Vince Marotto	14	John Brachna	25
Julie Kubek	3	Maddie Miller	14	Tate Fowler	25
Matthew Agnew	4	Mark Pace	14	Ruth Holmes	25
Brad Holmok	4	Matt Nelson	15	Clay Kesling	25
James Fredrick	5	Jim Neidinger	16	Katie Kiss	25
Lianna Meyer	5	Janine Telischak	16	John Prominski	25
Stella McCrodden	6	Joey Waddell	17	Chase Boldt	26
Lily Seifert	7	Gordon Foerster	18	Lilliana BonTempo	26
Derek Brinkmann	8	Gail Huth	18	Sara Louttit	26
Morgan Parker	8	Ken Wise	18	Alison Donze	27
Dorothy Pliske	8	Stephanie Roberts	19	Becky Juniper	27
Donna Eilbeck	10	Zachary Brachna	20	Nancy Kroenke	28
Alan Harper	10			Matt Salsbury	28
Hannah Johnson	11			Olivia Lechner	29
Dale Beaver	12			Nell Taylor	29
Stacy Parker	12			Sheri Zakarowsky	29
Carri Kenney	13			Lynn Dorman	30
Kathy Louttit	13			Barbara Harper	30
Alex McMaster	13			Linda Schmidt	30
Payton Schneider	13			Bob Wuerth	30



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 Erin Gee, who plays the guitar for us every Sunday in worship; Shelly Meek, Dave Brown, Matt Auble, Craig Kotnik and Becky Paroda, who recently completed an audit of the church finances; Sue Hastings and Craig Czarnota, who accompanied our confirmands on their recent visit to Friends Church; and Joan Olszko who created the beautiful Habitat for Humanity display in the Parlor. Talk about using God's gifts to his glory!

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.



God has filled our world with amazing beauty and incredible creatures-- get outside and appreciate the wonders that surround us. Meet us in the church lot at 4 pm sharp or catch up with us at our starting location for that day.

- ⊗ April 4 at 4:00 hike the towpath to hopefully see the bald eagle nest and then have fun with a nature scavenger hunt along the trail. (Starting location: Station Road parking lot in CVNP).
- ⊗ April 18 at 4:00 hike the area around Deer Lick Cave and the vernal pool, which should be holding lots of frog eggs at that time. (Starting location: Deer Lick Cave parking area on Valley Parkway in Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks)
- ⊗ May 2 at 4:00 hike the yellow trail behind Brecksville Nature Center to see the variety of spring wildflowers that are popping up out of the newly warmed ground. Each one has its name and story... can you figure out which is which? (Starting location: Brecksville Nature Center parking lot)
- ⊗ May 16 at 4:00 take a high adventure creek hike to see some awesome rock formations. Wear sensible, sturdy shoes and be prepared for steep, muddy slopes and wet feet. (Starting location: Chippewa Creek ford field in the Brecksville Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks)
- ⊗ June 3 at 8:00 join your friends for a fun Friday night hike. Listen for owls and coyotes and search for bats. There will essentially be no moonlight tonight, so it is a great time to view the stars and constellations. (Meeting location TBD)

The GetOutDoors Club is for anyone – third grade and up - who loves to be outside appreciating God's beautiful creation. Bring a friend and a camera and a quest for adventure. Plan to either meet at the starting location a little after 4 pm or promptly at 4:00 if you need a ride from the church parking lot. We will return by 5:30.



SATURDAY, APRIL 23

6 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come one, come all, for a night of fun and friends! Bring a dish or dessert to share, and leave the rest to us.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

- *The Evangelism Committee*

Pledge Campaign and 2016 Budget

We have good news to Celebrate in 2016! With everyone's gracious support, our Church Family made 153 Pledges for \$445,402! That is one of the highest pledge amount totals in recent memory, and a strong \$30,445 increase over 2015!

This wonderful support enabled Administrative Board to approve a balanced budget for 2016, without making emergency transfers from the General Reserves like in 2015.

Our total budget for 2016 is **\$561,017**. That's a 2.71% increase over the \$546,245 budget in 2015. Solid progress is being made to support our many ministries and programs, and care for our aging building.

We celebrate Mike Memmer's retirement as our church Business Manager! Mike brought such strong service and organization to our church finances, and everything he did is very much appreciated. A BIG Thank You Mike!

Welcome also to Becky Paroda as our new Business Manager. Becky grew up in our church (daughter of Kim and Scott Campbell) and we look forward to the many gifts and talents that Becky brings to us.

We are so grateful to our Church Family for their financial support. It really does change lives, and helps spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our pledges and gifts also change our own lives, forever.

God owns everything. Hallelujah! And we honor God every time we return to him his gifts to us, by making our pledges and offerings.

- *Finance Committee*



APRIL

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Communion Sunday is April 10			1	2
3 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 12:30 Music & Worship Board 6 Youth Dinner 7 HS Youth Group	4 Brecksville Community Choruses Rehearse 4 G.O.D. Club	5 10 Staff Mtg 5 Children's Choir 6 Passover Seder 7 Evangelism	6 6:30 Dawnbrkr 3 MS Youth 7 Evening Circle	7 9:30 UMW 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble 	8 5 Fridays @ 5	9 8:30—4 pm PEO Training 6 Western Reserve Emmaus 7:30 Student Recital
10 <i>Communion</i> <i>Native American</i> <i>Ministries Sunday</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship with Baptism 4 Community Chorus Concert at BUCC 7 HS Youth Group	11 Brecksville Community Choruses Rehearse	12 <i>Eat at Creekside</i> <i>for UMW</i> 11 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch Bunch <i>No Children's Choir</i> 7 Ad Board 8 COE	13 6:30 Dawnbrkr 3 MS Youth	14 9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle <i>No Bells or Choir</i> 	15 <i>Food Delivery to</i> <i>Brookside</i> 	16 4:30 Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Place
17 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship with Baptism 7 HS Youth Group	18 Brecksville Community Choruses Rehearse 4 G.O.D. Club	19 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 5 Children's Choir 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Mem 7:30 Trustees	20 6:30 Dawnbrkr 3 MS Youth	21 9:30 UMW 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	22 <i>Passover</i> 	23 10 Spring District Conference Here 6 Potluck & Bingo! 
24 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 2 Youth Chorus Rehearsal 4 Youth Chorus Concert 7 HS Youth Group	25 <i>World Malaria</i> <i>Day</i> Brecksville Community Choruses Rehearse	26 10 Staff Mtg 5 Children's Choir 7 Finance	27 6:30 Dawnbrkr 3 MS Youth	28 9:30 UMW 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble 	29 9:30 UMW Board Meeting 4 Calovini Recital Rehearsal	30 2 Calovini Recital 5 Youth Chorus Concert in Hudson

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

Learning to pray is like learning to ride a bicycle. What we can learn from a book or class is not enough. Proficiency comes through practice.

Additionally, because prayer is a form of communication, there is no one-size-fits-all technique. Each of us needs to find our unique style.

Spending a day or season invigorating your prayer life is time well spent. Experiment with some new-to-you ways of praying. You might be surprised to find what works best for you.

Need some ideas? Look up: www.umc.org/what-we-believe/re-energize-your-prayer-life-with-a-new-practice

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
Feb. 21	125	104	77	-98
Feb. 28	118	104	99	-83
Mar. 6	135	89	107	-58
Mar. 13	107	78	98	-95
Mar. 20	186		131	+17

We've set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. Can we keep it up? 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.

Date	Offering
Feb. 21	\$5,955
Feb. 28	\$8,025
Mar. 6	\$10,880
Mar. 13	\$9,716
Mar. 20	\$9,275

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

SERVICE

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

- Sign up for the Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build project. You can choose to work one day, to provide lunch for a work team, or to take pictures of the project. We also need a lot of prayers!
- Volunteer to make dinner for the First Sunday Youth Dinner. There are only two remaining this season!
- Donate to our canned food drive for Brookside, or undergarments for the West Side Sisterhood.
- Donate your old glasses to the UMW. They'll be recycled for someone in need.
- Eat at Creekside on April 12 for 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.

United Methodist News

Every day to us is Easter: Experience resurrection all year long.

Adapted from a UMC.org feature by Joe Lovino* March 1, 2016

On Easter, many United Methodists sing, “Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.” These words open the last verse of “[Easter People Raise Your Voices](#)” (United Methodist Hymnal #304) penned by United Methodist pastor the Rev. William M. James. The hymn reminds us that we celebrate renewal every day.

Out of floodwaters

In late August 2005, [Hurricane Katrina](#) and the resultant flooding displaced hundreds of thousands of people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The Rev. Darryl Tate was one of them.

“I had lost our church by floodwaters, and our home,” Tate reports. At the height of the flooding, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, had 10-12 feet of water in it. “I lost my stuff, but the storm was not going to define Darryl Tate,” he recalls, “I was going to overcome.”

[Bishop William W. Hutchinson](#) soon asked Tate to organize [The United Methodist Church’s disaster relief ministry](#) in Louisiana. Tate served as director of the Louisiana Conference Storm Recovery Center until 2012, and continues as the Conference [Volunteer Coordinator for Disaster Response today](#).

Tate saw many examples of renewal in his work. “Our organization helped 125,000 households,” in response to “four hurricanes, seven tornadoes, three floods, and one environmental crisis,” he reports.

He remembers a unique request from a man whose home the Storm Recovery Center was ready to rebuild. “I want a house only 1,000 square feet,” he said. The case manager assured him that though guidelines would not allow them to build *more* than he had before, they could rebuild the 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home the storm destroyed.

“No,” the man replied. “I only want a house that is 1,000 square feet. I live alone. I don’t need a home that big anymore. Give it to somebody else.”

An elderly couple from a horse farm in Pecan Island were forced to live in a horse trailer when floodwaters came to their home. During the home blessing service the Storm Recovery Center held for the family after rebuilding their home, the woman excitedly showed Tate her new refrigerator.

“I can put my glass in the door and I’ll get water and ice. Isn’t it amazing?” she said. “I am so blessed.”

A new home, a new refrigerator, a new blessing that comes after a storm. Every day can be Easter.

Out of oppression

In 1940, when Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia became part of the Soviet Union, there were 46 Methodist congregations in the region (we didn’t become *United* Methodists until 1968). When [Estonia](#) gained independence in 1991, there were only 17 left. God, however, was working toward revival.

“I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart in 1991,” says the Rev. Sergei Sutskov, “It was a time of great spiritual awakening in Estonia. At this time, Estonia seceded from the Soviet Union.”

Three years later, Sutskov moved to nearby Kohtla-Järve to start Galvary United Methodist Church.

Sutskov, who was a member of the first graduating class of the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary founded by The United Methodist Church, continues to pastor this growing congregation today. [In partnership](#) with Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia since 1996, they are reaching the people of Kohtla-Järve.

In the early days of Galvary United Methodist Church, their biggest challenge was “the lack of its own building for the community,” Sutskov says. In 2007, the congregation moved into a place with sufficient space for worship, Sunday school, and other activities.

Reflecting on the story of his faith journey and the church he serves, Sutskov says, “God responded to the spiritual hunger of people.” Every day can be Easter.

We are Easter people

As Easter people, we know that even in the tragedies of life, [God is at work bringing renewal](#). Some of those renewals we get to experience: rebuilt homes, national revival, and new church buildings. Others, like the death of a loved one, we wait to celebrate in the Kingdom of God to come.

As Christians, we experience [resurrection every day](#) and are called to share it in worship and work. Every day can be Easter, all year long.

How have you experienced renewal/resurrection in your life? *[Joe Lovino](#) works for UMC.org at [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by [email](#) or at 615-312-3733.



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