



# The Good Word



Brecksville United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

**February 2018 Issue**

Published January 26, 2018

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



A S H  
W E D N E S D A Y

**Wednesday, February 14**

**7:30 pm**

**The Sanctuary**

This reflective service invites you to humble yourself and be honest about areas in which you have fallen short in the past year. The imposition of ashes--having the sign of the cross gently placed on your hand or forehead--is a powerful and important practice, and it prepares you to walk with Jesus all the way to the cross and into new life.

***You are warmly invited  
to participate in this  
time-honored and  
meaningful tradition!***

## **5 Ways to Prepare for our Lenten Journey**

Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday (March 31), the evening before Easter.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own self-ish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. How can we get ready for this season of getting ready?

1. ***Make Plans to Attend the Ash Wednesday Service.*** Pastor Clark will lead our worship service on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Make worship time a priority for Lent.
2. ***Choose a Lenten Study.*** Pastor Clark will lead our Lenten Study on Sunday mornings at 10 am (see page 3). Interested in hosting a small group study with friends? Jenny Gee has resources for you. Or pick up a book! Our church library, in room 301, has several books appropriate for Lent on display there. The Methodist *Interpreter Magazine* also has a list of book suggestions online. [www.interpretermagazine.org/topics/preparing-for-lent](http://www.interpretermagazine.org/topics/preparing-for-lent)
3. ***Consider the Labyrinth.*** Read the article inside these pages (page 6) which explains this practice for meditative prayer.
4. ***Learn about Fasting.*** Lent is the time of year when many Christians seek the truth behind the paradox of subtraction equals addition. If you're considering a Lenten fast, read this article by United Methodist Communications: [www.umc.org/resources/lent-a-time-to-fast-and-pray](http://www.umc.org/resources/lent-a-time-to-fast-and-pray)
5. ***Pray.*** In these last few days before Lent begins, we can turn to Jesus and ask, “What is the grace you desire to deepen within me over these next 40 days?”



**8:45 Contemporary Worship**

10:00 Classes for All Ages

**11:15 Traditional Worship**

*Nursery care available all morning!*

## Our Staff

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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!



## Is there baseball in Heaven?

*Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor*

*"Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life- even though invisible to spectators- is with Christ in God. He is your life." - Colossians 3:3*

Two eighty-year-old men had been friends since their Little League baseball days. One of them came down with a terminal illness and his best friend was with him by his deathbed.

"Will you do me a favor?" the healthy friend asked. "I'm hoping there is baseball in heaven. When you get there, can you find out and let me know somehow?"

The dying man said, "We've been friends for almost all of our lives. I will try and get your answer to you."

Several days after the old man's death, his friend was sleeping when he had a vivid dream. His lifelong friend appeared to him and said, "There is definitely baseball in heaven, my friend! The bad news is that you're pitching on Wednesday."

The month of February holds many signs of spring. Many of those signs are all bunched up together. February 14 is Valentine's Day. February 14 is Ash Wednesday, and the kick off to our Lenten observance together. Love is in the air, mixed with the ashes of repentance. But there is one more thing... Pitchers and catchers report to Spring Training on February 14. One single day, holding so many signs of spring and new life. Looking forward to beginning a celebration of selfless love on Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day, and looking forward to watching new life start to move through our baseball team as they start to prepare for a new season. God is good all the time!

Pray for peace,

*Pastor Clark*



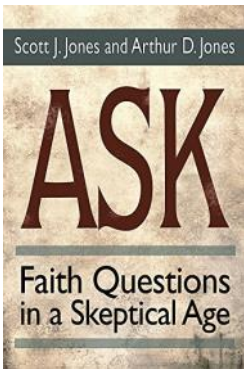
Turn your trash into treasure! Ronald McDonald House Cleveland needs your pull tabs from canned drinks and soups! There's a collection bin in the first floor coat room.  
*Thank you!*



Sunday Mornings  
at 10 am in the Parlor  
**February hosts:**  
**YOUTH BOARD**  
Stop in and visit!

## Lenten Adult Sunday School Experience:

### *Ask: Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age*



We live in a skeptical age. People express doubts about Christian faith. In this thoughtful eight-week study, Bishop Scott Jones partners with his son, Rev. Arthur Jones, to address hard questions that all of us face when considering faith, religion, and the church. Won't you make plans to join Pastor Clark and friends in this Adult Sunday School experience beginning February 18? *Sign up on Sunday in the Parlor, or contact the office.*

## Conversations on a Way Forward

Bishop Tracy S. Malone reminds us that, "The unity of the Church is all of our work to do. The unity of the Church is all of our conversations to have." To that end, the bishop created an East Ohio Conference design team that developed a process for having intentional, meaningful conference-wide conversations among clergy and laity to discern a way forward through the present impasse in The United Methodist Church related to human sexuality.

Each of the scheduled conversations will begin with participants gathered together for worship a time of centering and instruction. Then participants will move to their assigned small groups for facilitated dialogue around the following four questions that were crafted by the Council of Bishops for discussion by United Methodists across the denomination:

- ▶ In our diverse and global existence, what is the shared mission of the Church?
- ▶ Is there a proactive way to live together in our differences that doesn't presume that we will solve our differences? If so, what would it be?
- ▶ What might be a form of unity that would empower us living together?
- ▶ What *is* our witness and what can *be* our witness to the world in relation to our differences?

All clergy and laity in the East Ohio Conference are invited, and encouraged, to participate in any one of the following Conversations on a Way Forward. (Events struck through are filled already.):

~~Sat., Feb. 3, 2018, 10 am-1 pm~~

~~—Thoburn UMC~~

~~Sun., Feb. 4, 2018, 2-5 pm~~

~~—Willard First UMC~~

~~Mon., Feb. 5, 2018, 6-9 pm~~

~~—Lakewood UMC~~

Sun., Feb. 25, 2018, 2-5 pm

Newcomerstown Christ UMC

Sat., Mar. 3, 2018, 9 am-12 pm

Church of the Lakes UMC

~~Thurs., Mar. 8, 2018, 6-9 pm~~

~~—Delaware Asbury UMC~~

Sat., Mar. 10, 2018, 9 am-12 pm

Fredericktown UMC



Are you interested in learning more about baptism in the Methodist church, for yourself or your child? Sign up for our Baptism Class, **Sunday, February 18 at 12:30 pm**. Stop into the Parlor on Sunday to sign up, or call or e-mail the office.



## Bless the Congregation with Flowers!

Share a special occasion with the congregation—order Altar Flowers! A standard arrangement is \$45. Special arrangements are available at additional cost. Flowers are provided by florist Vince DiCillo. Take your arrangement home to enjoy after second service!

To reserve your special date, contact Leslie Miller  
440-526-8938 or  
leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

*It is important that you register in advance* for the conversation you wish to attend, as each location has a seating capacity for small group sessions. [Register here: www.eocumc.com/gc/index.html](http://www.eocumc.com/gc/index.html)



BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# CHILI COOK OFF

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24  
6 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

## SAVE THE DATE~HELP WANTED!

COME SHARE YOUR CHILI OR  
WARM UP WITH TASTY CHILI.  
SIGN UP ON SUNDAY!

**Who's ready for some chili?** Brecksville UMC's Great Chili Cook Off is for everyone—those who like to cook and those who like to eat! Do you have a favorite chili recipe? Do you love chili? Save the date for this event!

Each year the event features a great variety of creations: spicy, mild, hot, vegan, and surprises and fun for the whole family! Hope to see you there.

**The Brecksville United Methodist Women have offered to help with this event, but they can't do it alone!**

To sign up to cook, or to help with the event, please call

the church office 440-526-8938  
or Ruth Herman 330-467-3237.

There will also be a sign up table at church on Sundays. Chili chefs, please register before February 18!



*What did the jalapeño say to the green pepper?  
"I'm a little chili!"*



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**United Methodist Women** // Thursday, February 1 // 9:30 Continental Breakfast, 10 am Program // Parlor. Come hear Janet Kleckner share about her trips to Liberia and the role of Brecksville United Methodist Church in this mission. Everyone welcome!

**Evening Circle** does not meet in February. See you March 7!

**Thank you**—for your generous cookie donations! Together, we sent over 1,000 cookies to the USO Canteen at the Cleveland Hopkins Airport. The Canteen serves our service men and women as they travel through Cleveland.

**Empty Bowls** // Tuesday, February 6 // Cuyahoga Valley Career Center. Join us in supporting Empty Bowls, an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. The basic premise is simple: local artists, art groups and craftspeople create and donate handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to choose a bowl and enjoy a simple meal of soup, salad and bread in exchange for a minimum cash donation. Guests keep their bowls as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Brecksville Food Bank and South Hills Lend-A-Hand Food Bank in Broadview Heights. Tickets are \$15 and on sale at church on Sunday during the 10 o'clock education hour.



Come be in community with us and enjoy this month's

## LUNCH BUNCH

Featuring a taste of New Orleans on Shrove Tuesday!

Tuesday, February 13 at noon in Fellowship Hall

EVERYONE is welcome and it's FREE if you RSVP!

Sign up in the Parlor or call 440-526-8938

# What is a Labyrinth?



A labyrinth is an ancient symbol combining the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering, yet purposeful path. It represents a journey to our own center and back out again into the world.

Labyrinths have long been used as meditation and prayer tools. These meditative pathways date back thousands of years and have been found in burial sites in Egypt, carved into rocks in England, and traced on pottery and coins in Crete.

You will find Labyrinths in many religious traditions around the world. The Brecksville UMC Labyrinth models the shape of the Labyrinth laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France around 1220.

Labyrinths and mazes are sometimes confused; but they are quite different from each other.

- A maze is a puzzle to be solved with its twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a left brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical thinking to find the correct path.
- A labyrinth has only one circuitous path—to the center and out again. A labyrinth is a right brain task. It involves intuition, creativity, and imagery.

An active mind is needed to solve the puzzle of a maze. With a labyrinth there is only one choice to be made: to enter or not. A more passive, receptive mindset is needed. The choice is whether or not to walk a spiritual path.

## Walk the Labyrinth

During the season of Lent (February 14—March 31) take some time for prayer and reflection with the prayer labyrinth. Our labyrinth will be open from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. This self-guided experience will be set up in the Chapel (on the main floor of the church building) and available for use any time the church building is open.

Many people find that the simple movement of walking the labyrinth's curving paths allows their minds to become more peaceful and open to the Spirit. Here are a few tips to get you started:

## The Three R's

### Release

Let go of the details of your life. Shed thoughts and distractions. Open your heart and quiet your mind.

### Receive

When you reach the center, stay there a while. Meditate. Pray. Embrace the silence and take time to reflect on a challenge you are facing. Receive what is there for you to receive.

### Return

As you leave, you will follow the same path out of the Labyrinth that you followed in. Focus on joining God and God's healing forces at work in the world. Each time you walk the labyrinth you become more empowered to find and do the work for which you feel your soul is reaching.

Your individual results after walking the Labyrinth will be as unique as you! What have others felt? What could you anticipate feeling? In a study done recently of 160 Labyrinth walkers respondents indicated that they felt:

**More:** relaxed, clear, peaceful, centered, open, quiet, reflective

**Less:** stressed, agitated

Walking a labyrinth can help you relax and enter a more centered and reflective state that is sometimes called the "labyrinth effect."





# WAYS TO GIVE

## FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Each year, Brecksville United Methodists Church impacts the lives of thousands of families and individuals in our community and across the globe through our gifts of time, talents, and treasure. Your support makes our mission of *open doors, honest worship and determined service* a reality! Did you know that there are a number of different ways you can financially support the ministries of our church?

### **Online Giving**

This convenient service simplifies the giving process, allows you to give anytime, encourages consistency, and increases our administrative effectiveness. It's easy to start, change, or stop. To make transactions safely online from your credit card or checking/savings account visit [www.brecksvilleumc.com/giving](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/giving)

### **Cash and Checks**

Cash and checks are the most common way people give to the church. Make checks payable to "BUMC" or "Brecksville United Methodist Church." If you would like your cash gifts to be reflected on your giving statement, use an offering envelope and be sure to write your name and address clearly. Unless you designate a specific fund or ministry, all gifts are directed to the General Fund, which supports our ministries.

### **Envelopes**

For those interested, the church provides giving envelopes in either weekly or monthly sets. If you would like a set of giving envelopes, please check the box on the envelope located in one of the pew racks in the Sanctuary or call the church office.

### **Employer Matching Gifts**

Many companies will match charitable contributions or volunteer hours made by their employees. To find out if your company has a gift matching program, contact your HR Department or visit [www.matchinggifts.com/search/rit](http://www.matchinggifts.com/search/rit). Brecksville UMC qualifies for matching gifts under the federal tax exempt group ruling of the United Methodist Church. We may not be on the list of your company's approved charities, but our church office has the information needed to get on these lists.

### **Stock Gifts**

Stocks and mutual funds are another option. To make donations of stocks and mutual funds, please contact the church office.

### **Memorial Gifts**

Brecksville United Methodist Church's Gifts and Memorials program accepts gifts of any size. These gifts provide a unique opportunity for you and your family to make a gift to the church that will promote the ministry of the church today and for generations to come. To make a gift or establish a living memorial, please contact the church office.



# YOUTH NEWS



**All Youth Dinner** // Sunday, Feb. 11, 5—7 pm // Fellowship Hall // This month, we'll meet on the SECOND Sunday. Dinner is being sponsored by the Scott Family! Join us for a fun night, full of yummy food and a large group game. Students in grades 6-12th are invited—and encouraged to bring friends! We hope to see you there!



## **High School Main Event: Magical Movie Night**

// Sunday, Feb. 18, 6—8 pm // Youth Room // We will be watching a movie, playing Disney trivia, and eating delicious snacks! Come relax with us and spend a fun night in. Friends are welcome to join!



## **Let's Talk About It: Healthy Relationships**

// Sunday, Feb. 25 at 7 pm // Youth Room  
We are excited to continue our discussion series *Let's Talk About It*. On the 4th Sunday of every month we will gather in the youth room at 7pm for open, honest, and informed discussion on topics that impact students and the people they love. These discussions will be led by guest speakers and while they are youth focused, all are invited to join us! We would love to know how many people to expect. Please email Dana with your RSVP and any questions you may have.



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin



@BrecksvilleumcYouth

*Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237 or [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)*



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Music With A Mission**  
**Friday, March 9**

Our Youth Service Project Team will be traveling to Pittsburgh this summer to help families in need with essential home repairs.

Our main fundraiser for this mission work, **Music with a Mission**, will take place in our church hall on March 9, 2018. This fun, family friendly event includes dinner, a variety show, and a silent auction, all to raise the money we need to make this summer's trip possible. The theme for this year's show is **Dancing Through the Decades** and we are excited to enjoy a night of nostalgic fun!

**Tickets on Sale February 11**

Adult Ticket \$15

Family Ticket \$50

## **Silent Auction Donations**

We need your help! Can you donate a themed basket? A service? A handmade item?

Do you work for or own a company interested in making a donation? We'll thank our donors in the program and in the April issue of *The Good Word*. Ask the office for a donation letter with all of the details!

Contact Dana for more info!  
440-526-8938 or  
[youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com).

## **2018 Music/Worship Scholarship Announced**



**Attention High School Seniors:** The 2018 Music and Worship Scholarship application process starts now! If you are a high school senior who has participated in the music and worship program at Brecksville UMC, and you intend to continue to be active in worship as you pursue additional education, we encourage you to apply. Please email Adrienne Leska [music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com) for a copy of the application form and complete and submit the document via email to Adrienne by 5 pm on Friday, April 27, 2018. Questions? Call Adrienne at 440-526-8938 ext. 231.

**Save the date for this year's Golf Outing, which raises money for our scholarship fund! Saturday, June 16 at Briarwood Country Club**



## MILESTONES

*News of the Fellowship*

Ruth Holmes says “thank you” for all of the cards, calls and visits she has had while she recovers from hip surgery. She’s got a few more weeks of recovery. Please keep her and Joe in your prayers!

Ruth McDonel shared a lovely quote with us recently. It’s excellent advice, don’t you think?

*For beautiful eyes,  
look for the good in others.  
For beautiful lips,  
speak only words of kindness.  
And for poise, walk with the  
knowledge that you are never  
alone.*

- Audrey Hepburn

## Baptism ANNIVERSARIES

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. - *Galatians 3:27*

Matthew Auble	2/9/1992
Hank James	2/10/1963
Anthony Karn	2/10/2013
Brandon Klipfell	2/14/2010
Hudson Schneider	2/15/2004
Emily Vastartis	2/15/2015
Carly Kubek	2/16/2003
Becky Paroda	2/20/1983
Anastasia Brachna	2/22/2009
Zachary Brachna	2/22/2009
Brandon Schroedel	2/25/1996
Adam Archacki	2/26/1995
Brett Hof	2/26/1989
Matt Hof	2/26/1989
Matthew Gardner	2/28/2016



Doris Cipolla	1		Grace Ford	17	
Grant Kardos	1		Christine Hudacek	17	
Douglas Hubert	2		Emma Piorkowski	17	
Gail Meyer	2		Barbara Bartholomew	18	
Colin Johnson	3	Marge Webb	10	Scott Campbell	18
Brooke Toman	3	Doug Bender	11	Jack Kenney	18
Barbara Soltis	4	Marla Hocutt	12	Allie Kenney	19
Dave AuWerter	5	Gladys Smith	12	Zoey Tormento	19
Colin Hamilton	5	Leslie Hoffman	13	Matthew Ling	20
Faith McAllister	5	Bill Hurder	13	Dan Rajkovich	22
Lynn Spencer	5	Monica Kotnik	13	Steve Warth	22
Paul Olszko	6	Andrew Kubek	13	Erin Gee	23
Chloe Boldt	7	Mallory McCrodden	13	Janet Kleckner	24
Becky Chen	8	Ellen Falko	14	Eric Louttit	24
Nancy Knowlton	8	Lucy Fesler	14	Nancy Wygonski	25
Chad Boldt	9	Dorothy Jordan	14	Darcie Engler	27
Chloe Brubaker	9	Nathaniel Robusto	15	Angela Harper	27
Sarah Nurre	9	Abby Smith	15	Emily Hastings	27
Bob Williams	9	Matthew Miller	16	Taylor Whitton	27



As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings over the last four weeks, the following people were lifted in prayer with thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Dave Brown, who wears so many hats that we should probably get him a hat tree!

He is on our team of closers, the committed volunteers who come to the church every evening to be sure that it’s secure. He chairs the Gifts & Memorials Committee. He serves as a Sunday counter. And, he shares his musical talents in worship as part of our handbell choir. We’re thankful for you and your servant heart, Dave! So many folks donated to our hat and mitten tree. Among them were a couple of folks who went above and beyond. Claudia Monnett was one of the first to start filling the tree this year, when she hung beautiful hats and mittens she had created with her own hands. Hildegard, and her daughter, Astrid, are friends of Marisol Wylie. For several years, Hildegard has donated beautiful hats to our tree. This year, she had a broken wrist, so she could *only* knit 40 hats. She’s amazing. Hilton Elementary School also donated to our tree this year. We had so many donations that we’re dividing them among several organizations. Craig Kotnik is also a man who wears many hats. One recent Sunday he repaired our dishwasher, after serving in the worship band, and he also stepped up to lead the Finance committee this year. Bob Lundholm cares for this church in a number of ways. One way was to cover for Jeff & Scott when they were out of town over the long MLK weekend. We are so thankful for each of you and for all of the ways that you radiate God’s love!



# FEBRUARY

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Bill & Ann Rittman				1 9:30 UMW 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 	2	3
<b>4 Communion</b> <b>Children's Worship</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes & Coffee <b>11:15 Worship</b>	5	6 10 Staff Meeting 5 Middle School Youth Group	7 6:30 Breakfast	8 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble 	9	10 <i>Spring Lay Servant            Training</i>
<b>11 Boy Scout Sunday</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes & Coffee & PANCAKES <b>11:15 Worship</b> 5 All Youth Dinner	12 7 Staff Parish Relations Committee Mtg	13 10 Staff Meeting 12 Lunch Bunch 5 MS Youth Gp 7 Church Council 8 Music & Worship Board 	14 6:30 Breakfast <b>7:30 (PM) Ash            Wednesday            Worship Service</b>	15 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble 	16 UMW Food <i>Delivery to            Brookside</i>	17
<b>18 First Sunday            in Lent</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes & Coffee & <b>11:15 Worship</b> 12:15 Baptism Class 6 HS Youth Group	19 Presidents' Day (No School)	20 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 5 MS Youth Gp 7 Trustees	21 6:30 Breakfast	22 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir 8:30 Men's Ensemble 	23 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	24 <i>Spring Lay            Servant Training</i> Flute Festival 6 Chili Cook Off 
<b>25 Second            Sunday in Lent</b> <b>8:45 Worship</b> 10 Classes & Coffee & <b>11:15 Worship</b> 7 Let's Talk About It:	26	27 10 Staff Meeting 5 MS Youth Gp 7 Finance	28 6:30 Breakfast 7 Missions Committee			



**Brecksville UMC**

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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*Socialize with us!*



**Open Doors.**

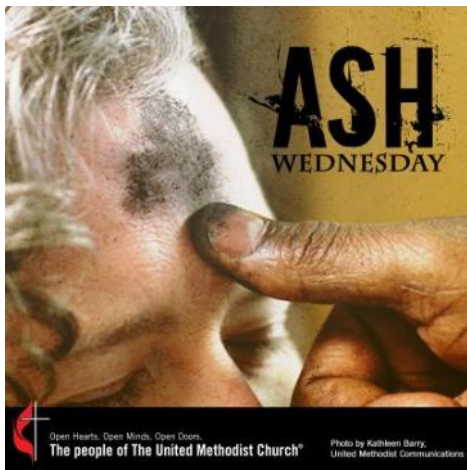
*Welcoming all of God's children.*

Brecksville United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace diversity as a gift. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.

# THE BUMC LENTEN CHALLENGE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Make this season of Lent more meaningful by doing random acts of good and loving deeds to God, family, friends, strangers and yourself! Here are some suggestions...			14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Make time to worship at 7:30 pm.	15 Start a conversation with someone you haven't talked to in a while.	16 Pray for your family, the church and your friends.	17 Call a distant friend or relative in need and chat.
18 <b>1st Sunday</b> Take part in Pastor Clark's Lenten Study	19 "No Moaning Monday" Spend a day free from complaints!	20 Consider a donation to the Music with a Mission Silent Auction.	21 Tell someone how much you appreciate them.	22 Buy lunch for a co-worker, friend, or stranger.	23 Write a thank you note to a Sunday School teacher	24 Give away clothes you no longer need.
25 <b>2nd Sunday</b> Walk the labyrinth (in the Chapel) after church	26 Sign up to serve at the Food Bank or Pearl Road in March.	27 "Toothy Tuesday" Spend the day smiling at strangers!	28 Surprise someone with a flower, a candy, or a trinket.	1 "March comes in like a lion..." Lions sleep much of the day. Treat yourself to a nap.	2 High Five Friday. Give some high fives today.	3 Plan something fun today with your family or friends.
4 <b>3rd Sunday</b> Make a prayer list and spend time in prayer today.	5 "No Moaning Monday" Spend a day free from complaints!	6 Text Challenge Tuesday: send a positive text to 5 friends. No group texts!	7 Walk the labyrinth (in the Chapel) today. Open 8:30 am until 9 pm.	8 Send a note to someone who strengthens your faith.	9 Attend the Music with a Mission Fund-raiser tonight!	10 Positivity Day! Be positive and use only positive words.
11 <b>4th Sunday</b> Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. See you at church!	12 Write a thank you note to someone—for being your friend.	13 Be extra kind to someone you do not like today. You can do it!	14 Give someone a gift for no reason— anonymously!	15 Be kind to the earth today. Bring your paper to the church recycling bin.	16 Forgiveness Friday. Forgive all who offended you this week.	17 Do you have a "feel good movie"? Invite a friend to watch it with you.
18 <b>5th Sunday</b> Natalie Vastartis will be baptized today. Write her parents a card!	19 Say "Hi! How are you?" today and listen closely to the answers.	20 Don't let the weather forecast determine how sunny your day's going to be!	21 Warm Wednesday. Greet warmly every person you meet today.	22 Leave change in a vending machine or shopping cart.	23 Fasting Friday. Take a Social Media break today. Can you do it?	24 Surprise someone with words of encouragement on a sticky note.
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Take part in the Processional of Palms during worship today.	26 Make amends or reconcile with someone.	27 Say a prayer for someone who is suffering or in need of comfort.	28 Walk the labyrinth (in the Chapel) today. Open 8:30 am until 9 pm.	29 Refrain from judging others today. Radiate God's love and grace!	30 <b>Good Friday</b> Attend the Tennebrae service tonight at 7:30 pm	31 Pray for Pastor Clark and all those working in churches.
1 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Celebrate this day in gratitude in the presence of God with your family!	Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." - Mark 12: 29 - 31					





## Why ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During our Ash Wednesday service, Pastor Clark will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

— Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

## Don't Miss Boy Scout Sunday, February 11



Boy Scout Troop 175 invites the congregation to enjoy a Pancake Breakfast of Appreciation between worship services in Fellowship Hall on Scout Sunday, February 11. Scouts will prepare and serve breakfast for which there is no charge (but donations will be accepted.)

Join us in our celebration of Scout Sunday and all of the ways that Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to youth in our community. Scouting emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness.

Our troop is growing, with the addition of an active and growing Cub Scout Den. Great news for the future of Scouts!

We congratulate all the kids and volunteers who are active in Scouting throughout Northeast Ohio and want to offer a special prayer and word of thanks to the leaders and members of Boy Scout Troop 175, which is 93 years old and chartered to Brecksville United Methodist Church since 1942.

# Thank You!

## from Nehemiah Mission and Ganta Hospital

Nehemiah Mission was able to send \$2000 to Ganta Hospital in Liberia for Christmas. \$800 of this gift were the generous donations from Brecksville United Methodist Church. The money was used to give all 256 staff members at the hospital a \$7.00 cash gift. The remainder was used to provide a special Christmas meal at the hospital. A group of volunteers from our Conference are travelling to Ganta on January 20. Thank you to all who stopped by the table to contribute and learn about the Ganta Hospital. - *Ruth Georgevich, Mary Kotnik, and Craig Kotnik*

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— *making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world* —

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH