# Brecksville United Methodist Church A Reconciling Congregation The Good VVord Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

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#### **Going on vacation? Find-A-Church!**

Want to visit another United Methodist Church when you're traveling? Try <a href="www.umc.org/findachurch">www.umc.org/findachurch</a>. Simply enter the City/State or Zip Code of the location you're visiting and you'll find a list of all of the Methodist churches in that area. We would love to see the bulletins of the churches you visit! Bring them to the church office and—if we get enough of them—we'll create a "Churches We Visited on Summer Vacation" bulletin board!

Visit <u>www.umc.org</u> for these vacation themed articles:

10 Books to Read to Feed Your Faith

Family Mission Trips: Vacations With More Meaning

7 Sites Every Methodist Should See



We're firing up the grill and having a cook out!

It's FREE if you RSVP!

Everyone's welcome—all the time!



Something wonderful happens when you move outdoors. Maybe it's the way the sunlight filters through the trees, or the way a summer breeze floats past, but sometimes just being outside makes us feel closer to God.

Our Sunday worship on the lawn is a unique opportunity to start your Sunday with an time of worship in the open air. This casual, come-as-you-are service includes all the essential elements of a typical worship service. We sing songs from *The Faith We Sing* hymnal, lead by a vocalist and acoustic guitar. We learn from Pastor Clark's message. We pray together. And we leave feeling refocused and refueled for the week.

You are welcome to bring a camp chair or blanket, or to sit on one of the benches or folding chairs provided by the church. Nursery care is available during the service.

Worship on the lawn takes place at 8:30 through September 2! In the case of rain, we move inside. See you there?



#### **SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES**

8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary

Nursery care available at both services!

#### Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation: Rev. Barbara Bartholomew associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Dir. of Christian Ed: Jenny Gee education@brecksvilleumc.com

Director of Music: Adrienne Leska music@brecksvilleumc.com

Youth Director:

Dana Schwendeman

vouth@brecksvilleumc.com

Church Treasurer: Becky Paroda finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager: Melanie Smith office@brecksvilleumc.com

Asst. 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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Editor, Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

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!



Vacation Bible School Begins July 9 and we are all ready to enjoy an adventure on the wild rapids! At the time of this writing we have 101 children signed up to spend the week learning about God's unconditional love for us all. As the children navigate through the week they focus on the words from Isaiah 43:2... When you pass through the waters I will be there. Each day we have a new 'Rapid Reminder' that connects our Bible story to the theme. We learn that we can find adventure, acceptance, joy, rest and peace on the river. We will be singing songs, doing amazing science experiments, playing games and creating crafts that all relate back to our story of the day. Check out next month's issue of the Good Word to see some pictures that will show you how much fun it is to join together with our friends and praise Jesus.

#### Each day has a different theme, color, and Bible story.











Jesus calls us to a great adventure.

**TUESDAY** Jesus loves us for who we are.

Color of the Day **RED** 

Color of the Day **GREEN** 

Jesus Calls the Jesus Accepts Disciples: Mary and Matthew Martha: 4:18-25 Luke 10: 38-42

WED.

Jesus is a friend who sees us.

**NATURE SHIRT** 

Do you have one with birds, bugs or otters?

Jesus Walks with Zacchaeus:

Luke 19:1-10

**THURSDAY** 

**Jesus shows** us how to rest.

> Color of the Day

Luke

#### **FRIDAY**

Jesus keeps the adventure going.

**PURPLE** 

Jesus Shares a Special Meal:

22:14-20

Jesus Makes a

Color of the

Day

**BLUE** 

Promise: Matthew 28:16-20





What happens when people come together to think about the future of the church? Great ideas happen, that's what! On June 7, thirty-three people gathered in the Parlor to talk about four areas of focus which came out of this winter's focus groups and feedback:

- 1. **DEVELOP A WELCOMING MINISTRY.** How can we ensure that everyone always feels welcome and loved at Brecksville United Methodist Church? Inspired by the book *Becoming a Welcoming Church* by Thom S. Rainer, a team is forming to discuss next steps and training. Jenny Gee, Leslie Miller, John Brachna, Craig Czarnota, Lori Rusterholtz, Becky Paroda, Kristi Eberhardt, and Melanie Smith are on the case. Want to join them?
- 2. INCREASE A PASSION FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY. The "ministry moment" at each worship service is one way we're fostering awareness of the many good works of this church. Some other ideas discussed include: Hosting a ministry fair in the fall explaining our ministries and the ways people can get involved. Developing an "orientation" for new families. Conducting a Spiritual Gifts Inventory for the whole church body and staff in the fall. Asking Missions and Outreach to take inventory and recommend several missions to focus on this year.
- 3. RECONNECTING. We need to ask ourselves "Who's missing? Who's not here who used to be here?" Rev. Martin explained that we shouldn't let a person go three weeks without knowing that they're missed. But how can we track attendance when we have two services and not everyone signs in (and not everyone wants to!) Mr. Rittman suggested that we each should look out for our "pew neighbors" and notice when they're not at church. Some other ideas suggested for a connections team: Assign a mentor to match up with new attendees and help them get to know the church. Follow up with new visitors. (We deliver bread to them. What happens after that?) Send anniversary cards on the first anniversary of weddings held here and prayer cards to families who have had a funeral or memorial service. Jenny sends a lovely book to families on the first anniversary of each child's baptism. The staff sends a birthday card to everyone each year. (Note from Melanie: If you haven't received a birthday card, we don't know your birthday!) NEXT STEPS: Get more volunteers for the connections team to work with Ann Rittman, Kathy Stein and Nancy Manaska on this effort.
- 4. ANALYZE THE BUILDING SPACE. Are we making the best use of the space that we have? We can dream little and dream big about improving the building for ministry and community. An ad-hoc building review committee will be formed. So far, we have Dana & Jamie Schwendeman, Michael Jaszczak, and Mary Kotnik on the team and we're looking for other volunteers! NEXT STEPS: Ad-hoc team conducts a building study, road trips to see other church spaces, dreams big/dreams little, and presents their ideas to Trustees and Council.

Watch your bulletin for updates and upcoming planning events. Have questions? Want to get involved? Reach out to Pastor Clark or Kristi Eberhardt: 440-821-9066.

# OTHER IDEAS from the meeting:

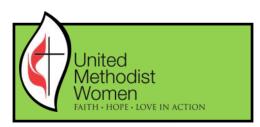
Every year, we welcome the community into the church after the Brecksville Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting. How can we make that time more impactful?

Pastor Clark talked about "non-threatening entry", occasions when folks are invited into the building for things other than worship and they get to know us a little bit. We need more of that.

The Easter Sunrise Service was on the Square this year and well attended, with lots of new faces. We should look for more ways to make sure the community knows about it.

We should invite other churches and the community to our fall kick off celebration—and rename it!

Find more ways to publicize/let people know about worship on the lawn. It's a worship experience that is unique and that many people may enjoy if they knew about it.





#### **Detergent Drive for Brookside**

Our focus for this month's collection for Brookside Food Center is detergent—both dish and laundry. These items cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits and are among the most needed items at the Center. Let's help our brothers and sisters in Cleveland stay clean and healthy. Bring your donations to the first floor donation bin by Thursday, July 19!



## Fireworks Night out with the Akron Rubber Ducks!

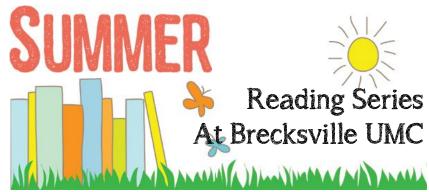
Join your church friends and family for a summertime outing to Canal Park Stadium as the Akron Rubber Ducks take on the Richmond Flying Squirrels on Friday, July 20 at 7:05 PM. We have reserved a big section for our church family to enjoy the game and the fireworks show after the game!! Tickets are \$8 and are available for advanced purchase. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets please contact Jenny Gee at 440-526-8938 ext. 230 or by e-mail:

education@brecksvilleumc.com.



## **Building on Faith**

Want to help make a house a home? In April, a team from your church staff helped when this house was down to the studs, installing windows, a soffit, and doing some framing. A lot has happened inside the house since then! If you'd like to be part of the team rehabbing this house for Michelle and her boys, please sign up for our next work dates July 28 and September 15. We need 8 volunteers to work on the house each day, or you can sign up to provide lunch or take photographs. Sign up in the Lobby on Sunday or contact the office! If these dates don't work for you, some of the other churches working on the house sometimes need help, too. Contact the office if you'd be interested in helping on a different Thursday or Saturday. Office@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938.



Sunday, July 22 at 4 p.m.

<u>Simple Prayer: Learning to Speak to God with Ease</u>
by Charlie Dawes

Sometimes our walk with God seems difficult. We struggle to find the time to pray, the words to say, and the way to pray them. Are we making prayer more complicated than it needs to be? Author Charlie Dawes describes a way of praying focused less on methods or tasks, and more on intimacy with God. He illustrates prayer without pretense or performance, just a few honest words that can express volumes. He identifies simple, biblical prayers that will help you unlock the mystery of conversing with God by paring our words down to their most elemental level. By focusing our prayers, we can open up a new way of relating with God that we have never before experienced. *Simple Prayer* is far from simplistic. Instead, it will help you connect with God at a heart level that cannot be mastered with words alone.

Books are available for purchase or to borrow. Questions? Call Jenny at the church or email her at <a href="mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com">education@brecksvilleumc.com</a>.

• Book Three, August 26: Why Jesus? by William H. Willimon





What can trees teach us about being a better church? A lot! The theme of this year's Youth Annual Conference was "We are One." Hundreds of young people came together to talk through real issues in respectful, helpful ways. The kids crafted a resolution to encourage discussion of safety and gun violence in schools, which was presented to the conference for a vote and passed. We learned how to make plarn (yarn from plastic bags) and used it to create

mats for distribution to those in need a soft place to sleep. In the evening, we rocked out to Bonray, watched illusionist Zak Mirzadeh, and listened to a powerful word from Rev. Jasmine Smothers. All the usual Lakeside fun was had: we played putt-putt and shuffle board, shopped in the square and spent time on the dock! We were blessed with gifted speakers, good food, pretty good weather, and great new memories. It was a fantastic way to kick off our summer youth ministry programming! And it happens again next year!



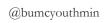
#### A WEEK OF HOPE IN PITTSBURGH

The Youth Service Project team spent the week of June 17 performing acts of kindness, love and service alongside other youth and local ministries and non-profit organizations in downtown Pittsburgh. Learn all about it at YSP Sunday, July 29! (See photos now on our social media.)



#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION EXPERIENCE. Do

you know a student entering middle school and interested in helping others and pushing outside their own comfort zone? We have an awesome experience in the works for them! From August 1-4 we are planning an overnight experience with the Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland and we need to know who is interested! College student/adult volunteers will be needed, too. Let Dana know if you want to be a part of this awesome ministry opportunity!







@BrecksvilleumcYouth

Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com



#### Summer Children's Choir sings on Youth Service Project Sunday!

On Sunday, July 29, all children and youth are invited to lift their voices in song with our summer children's choir.

We'll have one casual rehearsal. Join Adrienne and Isaac for a quick run-through of the song at 11:15 (following the 10 am service) on July 22 in the choir room.

We hope you'll join us in this wonderful opportunity of singing a piece of music together in celebration of YSP!

For more information, please contact Adrienne Leska at music@brecksvilleumc.com



#### YOGA IN THE CHAPEL

Our eight week yoga class concludes on July 26—it's not too late to join us! Drop in on Thursdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel to experience both yang (heat) and yin (cool) yoga with instructor, Jen Spieth. Beginners and experienced yogis alike will enjoy the class. Each class is \$7, with 80% of that fee going to the church. Thank you, Jen!



E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

A loving crowd assembled at the church to celebrate the life of long-time member, Phil Hines, on Saturday, June 2. Rev. Barbara Bartholomew officiated a service, with special music performed by Adrienne Leska and organist, Gordon Black. Friends and family enjoyed a time of reminiscing and rememberance in Fellowship Hall following the service, and we were so happy to see our old friends, Rev. Tom and Nell Taylor, among many others. Thank you, United Methodist Women, for your invaluable help with the reception!

# **Baptism**ANNIVERSARIES

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- Galatians 3:27

Nora Culley	7/4/1993
Tyler Hulten	7/31/2005
Joe Hurst	7/26/1987
Hannah Johnson	7/23/1995
Nancy Marsh	7/1/1956
Stacie Memmer	7/13/1980
Garth Olszko	7/26/1987
Kiira Olszko	7/26/1987
Shelby Olszko	7/26/1987
Megan Rohrer	7/31/1994
Payton Schneider	7/9/2000
Eli Shively	7/27/1997
Stefan Wygonski	7/21/1998



Jerry Bartholomew	1				
Brett Bender	2	Betsy Urso	14		
J.J. Hotaling	2	Jane Whitehead	14		
Kathleen Koteles	3	Debbie Falko	15		
Elizabeth Romance	3	Robert Kubicek	15	Elizabeth Jaszczak	24
Sarah Ford	4	Bill Neidinger	15	Carl Opatrny	24
Jim Lee	4	Matthew Nurre	16	Allison Toensing	24
Johnny Santora	4	Jim Fredrick	17 Addison Cave		25
Douglas Geib II	5	Stephanie Ling	17 Larry Kaminski		25
Pat Prominski	5	Cara Santora	17	Matthew Manocchio	25
Gabrielle Marotto	6	Taylor Heisler	19	William Olszko	26
Janet Beck	7	Tim Kenney	19	Carl Rossborough	26
Wendy Chenney	7	Kay Mendlik	19	Laurie Riccardi	27
Emily Telischak	7	Alexander Sebastian	19	Judy Suazo	27
Kevan Fisher	8	Adriana Sottosanti	19	Mary Cay Derry	28
Jon Wygonski	8	Wade Hurley	20	Ruby Ludwig	28
Kate Falko	9	Amy Hazelton	21	Patricia Frank	29
Kevin Machesky	9	Zachary Kardos	21	Richard Koloda	29
Tracy Scott	9	Miles Paroda	21	Janet Patterson	29
Matt Hof	10	Nick Rajkovich	21	Paul Dadas	30
Karen Memmer	10	Stefan Wygonski	21	Rachel Machesky	30
Joan Bloch	11	Paul Frank	22	Laurie Robusto	30
Dave Lienert	12	Anthony Robusto	22	Beth Smith	30
Diana Jacob	13	Ruth Herman	23	Bryan Smith	30
Jeanne Quade	13	Nathan Olszko	23	Pastor Clark Stein	30



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 the Shijo family, who stepped in and helped clean up after our confirmation

reception. You're an efficient team!; Kendall Lancaster, who spoke about ministry to the grieving in our ministry moment on May 27; Rev. Kathy Dickriede who recorded a video about ways we can help minister to disaster victims here and abroad; Wally Kudlaty, whose work with the bike ministry makes it possible, and who did such a great job talking about it in a ministry moment; everyone who helped with and participated in the Music & Worship Scholarship golf outing; and Aleyna Gee and her friend, Greg, who filled in and kept the church in tip top shape while the Hastings enjoyed a much deserved vacation. We're thankful for each of you, named and unnamed!



BRECKSV	ILLE UNI	IED MEI	портят	СНОКСН	www.brecksvii	ieumc.com ;			
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT			
1 Communion Sunday 8:30 Worship 10 Worship HOMEDAYS June 29, 30 & July	2 6 Cardio Kickboxing & Strength Training	3 10 Staff Meeting	Church Offices Closed Today	5 Gee & Gee Mowing 6:30 Yoga	6 9:30 Mom's Club International Meeting	7			
8 8:30 Worship 10 Worship	9 Vacation Bible School 6 Cardio Kickboxing	9 Vacation Bible School 1 Staff Meeting	6:30 Dwnbrker's Breakfast 9 Vacation Bible School	9 Vacation Bible School 6:30 Yoga Bloch & Campbell Mowing	9 Vacation Bible School Time TBD: VBS Youth Volunteer After Party!	14			
15 8:30 Worship 10 Worship	16 6 Cardio Kickboxing	17 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 12 Lunch Bunch 7:30 Trustees	18 6:30 Dwnbrker's Breakfast	19 6:30 Yoga Lundholm & Herzing Mow	20 Donation Delivery to Brookside	21			
CAMP REACHOUT									
8:30 Worship 10 Worship 4 Summer Book Club: Simple Prayer	23 6 Cardio Kickboxing	24 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance	25 6:30 Dwnbrker's Breakfast	26 6:30 Yoga Auble & Spencer Mowing	27	28 THabitat for Humanity APOSTLES BUILD			
29 YSP Sunday 8:30 Worship 10 Worship	30 6 Cardio Kickboxing	31 10 Staff Meeting	Ann & Bill Rittman		In the Lord's Supper, "God feeds us, sustains us, and empowers us to live as Christians in the world."				



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#### Electronic Service Requested











Socialize with us!



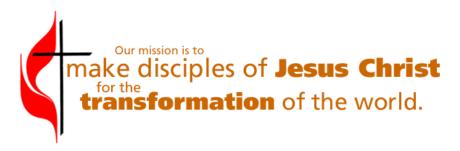
### June 3 through September 2

8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
Nursery care all morning.
Sprouts (children's church) at 10 am.



# 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.



Wesleyan understanding of a disciple according to the General Rules of Discipleship:

A disciple is a witness to Jesus Christ in the world who follows His teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

John Wesley wrote in the 1743 tract, "The Character of a Methodist":

And while he thus always exercises his love to God, by praying without ceasing, rejoicing evermore, and in everything giving thanks, this commandment is written in his heart, "That he who loveth God, love his brother also." And he accordingly loves his neighbor as himself; he loves every man in his own soul. His heart is full of love to all mankind, to every child of "the Father of the spirits of all flesh." That man is not personally known to him, is no bar to his love; no, nor that he is known to be such as he approves not, that he repays hatred for his good-will. For he "loves his enemies"; yea, and the enemies of God, "the evil and the unthankful." And if it be not in his power to "do good to them that hate him," yet he ceases not to pray for them, though they continue to spurn his love, and still "despitefully use him and persecute him."

Do we have a heart for **all** God's people—even the people not personally known to us? Even the people who reject God or reject us? Even our enemies?

Engaging our communities begins here.

Planting churches or extending our church's reach into our communities begins here.

Transforming our communities and our world begins here.

It begins with a deep and authentic love for every child of the God of the spirits of all flesh.

For God so loves the world ... and so should we.

#### Take a Moment

- 1. Are we called to love every child of the God of the spirits of all flesh? What does that mean to you?
- 2. What are the barriers that keep us from a deep love for all people?
- 3. What are some first steps toward overcoming those barriers?

From Engaging Your Community: A Guide to Seeing All the People by Julius B. Dotson Available for free download: www.seeallthepeople.org/resources-downloads







Brecksville United Methodist Church has found a unique way to serve others - and we invite you to join us! We fix and repair old bikes and get them to people in need.

- Do you have a bike that you have outgrown or replaced or no longer need?
- Do you know an adult or a child who can't afford a bike, but could really use one?
- Do you like to fix bikes (or would you be willing to learn)?
- Are you looking for a flexible way to serve your community?

If the answer is **YES** to any of these questions, please contact us! Jenny Gee leads this mission.

Brecksville United Methodist Church 440.526.8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

#### Our bikes have been distributed through:

Yuletide Hunger

Nehemiah Mission

First Hispanic United Methodist Church

Pearl Road Soup Kitchen

Ganta Mission, Liberia

Ohio Guidestone

The Solon Police Department and School District

and others!



<sup>\*</sup>Bikes we cannot repair are donated to Ohio City Bike Co-op for parts.