

Brecksville United Methodist Church  
*A Reconciling Congregation*



# The Good Word



Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

December 2018 Issue • Published November 21, 2018 • [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

# Christmas Eve

At Brecksville United Methodist Church



## A Quiet Christmas

**3:00 pm**

When joy to the world is hard and you can't seem to be able to hear the angels sing. A meditative and quieter celebration of Christmas is for those who are frazzled by the season or perhaps for those who have recently experienced loss, hardship or a life change this year. This service will be attentive to the needs of people who are in need of a sacred space, for reflection, healing and hope this Christmas.

## Family Service

**5:00 pm**

The Christmas Story comes to life, as our players re-enact Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem. This service is geared towards children and families to help remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. The service closes with the singing of *Silent Night* as we pass candlelight (glow sticks are provided, too!) This has been our best attended service, so expect to see (or meet) some friends!

## Candlelight

**8:00 and 10:00 pm**

O, Come Let Us Adore Him! The hush of Christmas Evening falls across the Sanctuary as we gather to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. The 8 o'clock service will feature singing from our Chancel Choir and the music at both services will be enhanced by a string quartet. We sing *Silent Night* as we pass the light of Christ, one to another, and open ourselves to the presence of God.

*Childcare will be available at all services.*



## Sunday Morning Worship

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10:00 Classes for All Ages

11:15 Traditional Worship

## Christmas Eve Services

3 pm A Quiet Christmas

5 pm Family Service

8 & 10 pm Candlelight Services

### Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

**Rev. Clark Stein**

[pastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:pastor@brecksvilleumc.com)

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

**Rev. Barbara Bartholomew**

[associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com)

Dir. of Christian Ed: **Jenny Gee**

[education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

Youth Director:

**Dana Schwendeman**

[youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

Music Director:

**Malik Khalfani**

[music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com)

Praise Band: **Jamie Schwendeman**

[jamie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:jamie@brecksvilleumc.com)

Church Treasurer: **Becky Paroda**

[finance@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:finance@brecksvilleumc.com)

Office Manager: **Melanie Smith**

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Asst. Office Manager: **Leslie Miller**

[leslie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:leslie@brecksvilleumc.com)

Church School Registrar:

**Joan Olszko**

Facility Managers:

**Jeff and Scott Hastings**

[facilities@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:facilities@brecksvilleumc.com)

Published monthly by

**Brecksville United Methodist Church**

65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

**Article deadline 3rd Thursday monthly**

Editor, Melanie Smith

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!



## I Wish You Enough

*Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor*

"Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off." - Proverbs 23:18

"For now sits expectation in the air." - Shakespeare

We enter into a magical, dangerous time of year. The holidays can bring out the best and the worst in us. It seems there are many demands placed on our time and our talents and our money, and our patience...and our expectations. I am amazed at how the holidays have slowed down for us a tad over the years. I distinctly remember being in the middle of a busy church with four busy youngsters and all of their business in sports and music and plays and extra-curriculars around the holidays. It seemed at the time that we had little time to ourselves and that much of our lives were lived at an extremely fast pace. That was a wonderful time in many ways, even though, as an introvert, it pushed my tolerance to the max. I do remember being in the midst of it and consciously telling myself that there would be a time when I would really miss all of this. There are parts that I have fond memories of, mostly how close the kids were, and how we saw each other a bit more regularly. I still marvel at their accomplishments, and am proud of where they all are now.

Things change. The passage of time causes much of it, and sometimes we just move in different directions and circles. This year, in the midst of much violence in our culture, both physical and verbal, I was led to slow things down a bit. We will be looking at four basic images that are tied to our four main themes of Advent: Hope - a righteous branch, Peace - the dawn, Joy - water, Love - bread. It is my heart felt desire that as we approach these holiday times, wherever you are in your life journey, that we might just carve out some times to simplify things. You will be hearing about a *Mason Jar Advent*, and together we will consider that in the gift of the mystery of Jesus, God has simply given us "enough".

Someone once said,

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all you possess.

I wish you enough "hellos" to get you through the final "goodbye".

My friends, this holiday season, as we celebrate the gift of the mystery of Jesus, might we all manage our expectations a bit, and learn to take big delight in the "smalls" of our lives. For unto you is born, once again, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on the earth peace. I wish you enough.

Praying for peace,

*Pastor Clark*

## Simple Soup Supper

Wednesday, December 5 at 6 pm

Enjoy a simple supper of soup and bread (lovingly prepared by the church staff) before the evening worship service. Join us in Fellowship Hall anytime between 6 and 7 pm. After we eat, experience the Advent Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy

**Santa's Not the Only One Who Needs Help on Christmas Eve!** Our church will be filled with familiar faces, first-time visitors and friends and family from out of town. Can you help create a welcome that's warm and befitting this day celebrating the arrival of Jesus? There is so much opportunity here!

- **Serve as an Usher.** With four services, some at capacity, we will need "all hands on deck" to pass out bulletins and candles, point folks to the restrooms and answer questions.
- **First Floor Greeters.** Our church building needs some explaining for first time visitors. You can help direct people to the coat room, the elevator, and the Sanctuary.
- **Parking Lot Greeters** help people get safely from their cars into the building.
- **Nursery Helpers** assist our paid staff in the crib and toddler room.
- **Carolers!** Pastor Clark's dream is to have a crew of carolers welcoming worshipers with song before each service.
- **Luminary Setters.** This year, we would like to line our walkways with (battery operated) candle luminaries, but we'll need some help to get them set up before (or during) the 5 o'clock service.

## Evening Worship Service for Advent

Wednesday, December 5 at 7:30 pm

As we enter the season of Advent, let us gather together and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus! Pause, reflect and refresh in this quiet worship service in the peace of a winter evening,.

## A Mason Jar Advent

*Slow down, breathe and refocus on God's goodness, God's bounty, preserved in this world as it already is in heaven.*



Before there was plastic, we preserved summer's bounty in simple mason jars, so that even in the barren days of winter, we could taste God's goodness and foretaste the bounty and harvest to come. The season of Advent is a time for simple things and for keeping things simple. It's a time to stop the frantic busyness, a time to slow down and preserve the things that are really important. This advent season, let us refocus ourselves with hope, peace, joy and love. Get your Mason Jar and advent calendar tags at the Brecksville Christmas Parade Reception in Fellowship Hall on **November 25**, or at the Evening Worship Service on **December 5**.

Sign up on Sunday or contact the office!

440-526-8938 or

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)



### Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting & Reception

You're Invited to the Annual Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting complete with Fireworks and the Bee's Brass Ensemble on the square Sunday, November 25 at 4 pm. After the fireworks, the community will gather in our Fellowship Hall for cookies, hot chocolate and music from the Brecksville Community Chorus. Hope to see you there!

*Photo by Bill Rittman, 2017*



### Food Bank Day, Dec. 15

Be a part of our church volunteer team at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on Saturday, December 15. Together, we'll help feed our hungry brothers and sisters! Sign up in the lobby, or call the office. All volunteers must also register online—we'll walk you through it!



## WAYS TO CENTER DURING ADVENT



**Walk the Labyrinth**—December 21-30 during regular open hours. Do you need a way to escape the hustle and bustle of the commercial side of Christmas? Plan to visit the labyrinth which will be set up in the Fellowship Hall all throughout the week of December 21 to the 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a guide to help you make the most of this ancient spiritual practice and some Advent devotions for you to use. No appointment necessary... just stop by and allow yourself to return to center.

### Practice Random Acts of Kindness

Looking for a way to truly prepare your heart and the hearts of those you love for Jesus' birth? Stop by Jenny's office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and check out the new Random Acts of Kindness Bulletin Board. Grab an envelope and experience the best way to count down to Christmas EVER! Envelopes are available for both adults and for families with young children.



### Grow A Live Advent Calendar

On December 2 stop in the parlor and grab a Paperwhite bulb or two. Take them home and plant them according to the instructions provides and place near a sunny window and water frequently. Gentle daily watering can take on the form of an Advent discipline. You should have some beautiful blooms by Christmas Day. This is an awesome way for both kids and grown-ups to learn about watching and waiting, but not in vain, for the promise of new life in Jesus.

### Mason Jar Christmas Advent Tags

Enrich your Advent journey day by day, week by week, prayer by prayer, and action by action as we count down to that holy night when God slips into the world. Pick up your tags at the Christmas Parade Reception or at the Advent Worship Service!



## Christmas Extravaganza

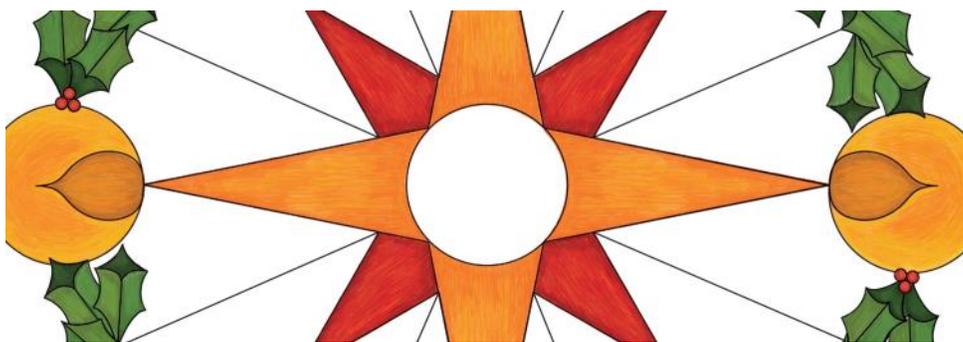
Mark your calendars for **December 2!** Sunday school for our preschoolers through 12 graders will be a fun and festive launch into the Advent season. Plan to be here to play games, make crafts and do some awesome service projects. Event will be held in Fellowship Hall and anyone who would like to help is welcome to join in. Contact Jenny Gee if you want to be part of the planning or if you'd like to help on that day. 440-526-8938 ext. 230 or [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com).



## Adult Advent Studies



**The Journey: Sunday Mornings at 10 am. December 2, 9, 16 and 23**  
The Christmas story is filled with people from different locations moving from one place to another... Mary of Nazareth, Joseph of Bethlehem, Elizabeth from the Judean town of Ein Karem. Learn more about the locations and fascinating discoveries made in these towns that will add texture and life to your understanding of Jesus' birth story. Join Jenny Gee to watch Adam Hamilton's on-location filming of these amazing towns and dig a little deeper into the familiar Christmas story.



## Mandalas, Candles and Prayer

**Sunday Mornings at 10 am. December 2, 9, 16 and 23**  
**Monday Mornings at 7:30 am, December 3, 10, and 17**

Are you looking for a new spiritual practice to add to your prayer life this Advent? Open your heart and mind to the possibility of coloring as a form of prayer. The spiritual practice of coloring mandalas (circular designs), lighting candles, and praying in various forms will help you focus on God and experience hope, love, joy and peace throughout the Advent season.

## Preparing for the Mystery of Jesus

*Sunday services at  
8:45 and 11:15 am*



**BRANCHES**  
Sunday, December 2  
Luke 21: 25—36  
Jeremiah 33: 14-16



**DAWN**  
Sunday, December 9  
Luke 21: 25—36  
Jeremiah 33: 14-16



**WATER**  
Sunday, Dec. 16  
Zephaniah 3: 1-13  
Isaiah 12: 2-6



**BREAD**  
Sunday, Dec. 23  
Micah 5: 2-5a  
Luke 1: 46-55



## We Connect Update

We have 11 teams, 44 faith groups and 86 people who are connecting with each other! The Methodist *Book of Discipline* instructs our congregation to care for one another. There is still time to join a team. Pick up a card in the Parlor, make your team and grab your WE CONNECT @ Brecksville UMC rally towel. Keep it in your car to use on your hands after you clean the snow off! WHO'S MISSING? Have you noticed someone missing from "your" pew? Either drop them a card yourself or fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate and we will send them a note. LETS ALL CONNECT!

- The We Connect Team



## Yuletide Bikes

December 17 and 18  
in Fellowship Hall.

Want to help distribute bikes to people in need? Contact Jenny Gee  
440-526-8938 ext 230



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## You're invited to a Christmas Potluck!

Start the holiday season by attending UMW Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Thursday, December 6 starting 11:30 am. Share your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. Everyone is invited (everyone means you, too, gentlemen!) Hope to see you there!

## Acme Register Tapes Wanted

Acme Fresh Market register tapes are wanted by UMW for the Acme Cash Back program. Shop at Acme now and throughout the holidays. Place your register tape in the Acme labeled box in the coat room. It's an easy way to help earn money for UMW missions and help those in need!



## Domestic Violence Child Advocacy Center Wish List

The Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center envisions a community in which all people enjoy lives free from violence and abuse and feel safe and secure in their relationships. Let's help them help others! Brecksville United Methodist Women are participating in the Church Women United Christmas drive for the Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center. If you are moved to help, please bring your items to the baskets in the first floor coat room by 11 am on Thursday, December 13. Wish List:

Gift Cards: Target, K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Costco, Home Depot or Visa.

Body Lotion  
Body Soap  
Deodorant  
Hand Soap Dispensers  
Soap dishes  
Laundry Detergent  
Dish Soap  
Clorox cleaning wipes  
Paper Towels

Toilet Tissue  
NEW towels and washcloths  
Raisins  
Crackers  
Chips/pretzels  
Granola bars  
Fruit Snacks  
Diapers – size 6  
Juice Boxes



## Food Tree for Brookside

Our Brookside Food Pantry Tree will be filled with food and other necessities for our sisters and brothers in need and these donations will be delivered to Brookside Food Center. The most needed items include: Canned Fruit, Soup, Cereal, Canned Meats (like tuna and chicken), Peanut Butter and Jelly, Personal Hygiene Items, Household Cleaners, Laundry and Dish Soap, and Paper Towels. Please hold the cranberry sauce, green beans, and corn. Thank you!

KIN♥  
DOM  
JESUS  
RADICAL  
LOVE  
JUSTICE  
PEACE

## Jesus' Kin-Dom, a Stewardship Message

Radical Love. Radical Justice. Radical Peace. Jesus brought these counter-cultural messages to a world that was hurting and broken. And Jesus' message is needed just as desperately today as it was more than 2,000 years ago.

In this Fall's Stewardship Campaign, Pastor Clark helped us explore Jesus' teachings of Love, Justice and Peace. Jesus taught us to truly live out these concepts, not just pay them lip service. Jesus lived by these concepts, and died on the cross for all our sins. Jesus' unconditional Love for us is a gift beyond compare. Our Church Family is deeply involved in living out Jesus' call to Love our neighbor, seek Justice for others, and pursue God's Peace. On three successive Sundays we explored how many of our Church's ministries and programs put these lessons into action to serve Christ and help others.

**But there is so much more to do.** Our community and the world desperately needs to hear Jesus' message. Jesus' Kin-dom is made of people of all walks of life, God's Children. And Jesus seeks to draw in ever more people to be part of his special Kin-dom. Jesus gave us the Great Commission – each of us is to help spread his Kin-dom. That task may feel overwhelming. But Jesus is with us every step of the way, helping us to bear his yoke, one step at a time.

Through your financial pledges, our wonderful Church Family strongly supports our ministries and programs. As of November 15, we have already received 106 pledge cards for \$348,034 toward our church operations, and another \$5,870 pledged for the Planned Expense Fund. Our deepest appreciation and thanks to you! Praise the Lord for your gifts!

**But to continue Jesus' work here at BUMC, more is still needed.** Financial pledges are a meaningful step toward increasing and strengthening your participation and commitment in our Church Family, our ministries and programs. Your financial pledges help us plan for the future, and put Jesus' powerful teachings about Love, Justice and Peace into action today.

If you have not yet turned in your financial pledge card, we invite you to do so through the offering plate, or drop your pledge card by the Church Office, or mail it to the Church Office. We need your financial support, as together, our Church Family helps grow Jesus' Kin-dom, and helps bring his message of Love, Justice and Peace to ever more people!

*- Peace, Your Finance Committee*



**BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW HTS. COMMUNITY CHORUS PRESENTS:**  
**The Joy of Christmas and the Magic of the Holidays**  
(Introducing our New Director: Isaac Becker-Howell)  
**Sunday, December 9, 2018 • 4:00pm**  
**FREE PERFORMANCE 4:00 PM**

**Brecksville  
United Methodist Church  
(Sanctuary)**  
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141  
[www.bbhcommchorus.org](http://www.bbhcommchorus.org)  
(Close Parking and Wheel Chair Accessible with Elevator Access)

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Doing any online shopping for the holidays? Consider using AmazonSmile! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select Brecksville United Methodist Church as your charity!



The end of the year is just a few short weeks away! As you plan your year end giving, please remember that gifts to the church must be received in the church office by Monday, December 31. Monthly giving statements are included in printed copies of *The Good Word* and are sent by e-mail, according to your requests.

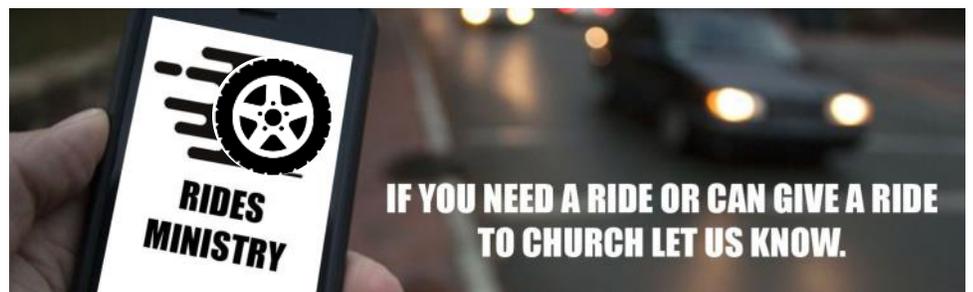
Can't wait for the mail? You can view your giving statement anytime from our secure online portal. It's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Log in to [www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist](http://www.onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist). Your e-mail address is your login. Your password is known only to you. If you can't remember it, follow the instructions to re-set.
2. Click Giving on the main menu.
3. You can view your past giving, see scheduled giving or even schedule a recurring gift.

Need help? Call Leslie or Melanie, 440-526-8938, Monday to Thursday 8:30—4:30 or Friday 8:30—12:30



Thank you so much first and foremost to our many church Veterans and their families. We truly appreciate you and the sacrifices you made for each and every one of us. We hope you enjoyed your Veterans Day celebration on November 11. Thank you also to Pastor Clark, and the church staff who worked tirelessly to help put Veterans Sunday together and make it special for our Veterans and their families. Lastly, a big thank you to Lynn Hobzek, Linda Rollins, Judy McCrodden, Catherine Vastartis, Kathy Stein, Leslie Phillips, Gail Huth, Donna Houston, Donna Sibits, and Gretchen Mates for all the food shopping, making the delicious soups and cake and cupcakes and helping set up Fellowship Hall for Veterans Sunday. Its a large task, but this group makes it flow so well. An additional thank you to all the volunteers who helped serve the meal and clean up. We really appreciate all your hard work. Bruce McCrodden washed pots and pans without a complaint for nearly two hours! He was amazing! Alan Phillips was a huge help both Saturday afternoon and on Sunday. Thank you so much, Alan. You are always there to help out. All in all it was a fun event and we look forward to next year. - *The Fellowship Committee*



As we slide into winter, the days get shorter, the sidewalks get messy, and sometimes it gets a little harder to get out of the house. Are you someone who would appreciate a ride to church? Are you someone who could use a little company on your ride to church? Give the office a call and we'll try to match up rides and riders. 330-526-8938. Thank you! *Please note that the church offices close at 12:30 pm on Fridays — so you'll need to plan ahead for Sunday!*

# YOUTH NEWS

## A December to Remember

This December we will not be meeting at our traditional youth group time on Sunday nights (no youth group or study hour on Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, or 30). Instead, we will be having three separate Christmas celebrations full of festive fun! Check out what's planned below:



## High School Christmas Movie Night

Sunday, December 9 from 6—8:30 pm

Come to the Piorkowski home for an awesome Christmas PJ party! We will watch a classic holiday film while doing a little Christmas crafting. It is sure to be a fun, cozy night with all your friends.

*RSVP to Dana by December 5!*

## Middle School Christmas Movie Night

Saturday, December 15 from 7—9:30 pm

We will be simply having a wonderful Christmas time at the Brachna abode! Come and hang out with friends, watch a Christmas movie, and make a gift-able craft to share with your family at home.



## All Youth Dinner Ugly Christmas Spectacular

Sunday, December 16 from 5—7 pm

It's that time of year again! Break out your ugly sweater and come party with us in Fellowship Hall. We will be playing fun Christmas themed games, having our ugly sweater contest, and holding our third annual Christmas Bingo Bonanza, where you could win a year of FREE JUNIOR FROSTYS AT WENDY'S! A special thank you to The Louttit Family, who will be sponsoring our meal that evening. So grab your friends, your ugliest sweater and we will see you there!

**Youth Ministry Christmas Break.** We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! From December 17- January 5, youth ministry programming will be taking a break for the holidays. We encourage students to spend quality time with their families and enjoy their time off. May you feel the blessing of love that comes with each Advent season and bring that love into 2019!

**A Look Ahead.** On January 6, from 6-8 pm we will be having our 2019 youth ministry planning/brainstorming meeting. Have some ideas for BUMC youth ministry in 2019? We would love for you to come and share them! Planning will include summer 2019 and fall 2019 events. Let's get excited for 2019 to be the best year of youth ministry ever!

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



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin

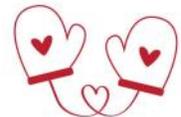


@BrecksvilleumcYouth



## Angels and Shepherds and Wisefolk... oh my!

Are you interested in being part of our awesome live nativity at the 5 pm Family Christmas Eve worship? All ages are welcome and costumes are provided. We will have one rehearsal the week before Christmas. Please reach out to Jenny for more information and to sign up! 440-526-8938 ext. 230



## Hat & Mitten Tree

Some trees are full of ornaments, but this tree is full of love. Your donations of warm hats, mittens, scarves and gloves will help warm the cold!



## Christmas Carol Sunday

Sunday, December 30

**ONE SERVICE**

at 10 am

Let's lift our voices in song and fill the Sanctuary with our favorite hymns and carols celebrating the birth of Jesus!



# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

440-526-8938

## Wedding Bells are Ringing!

Beth and Bryan Smith are happy to announce the marriage of their daughter, Melanie. She and Tim Trovillion, were wed November 10, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida.

Congratulations are also in order for Betsy Jaszczak and Dan Komarchuk, who were married on October 26, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Betsy and Dan reside in West Lafayette, IN.



## Spread Christmas Cheer

...by delivering a Poinsettia! Take a plant to people who were unable to attend Christmas Eve services (December 25—29) or deliver a poinsettia to those working on Christmas Eve (the fire department, the police station, etc.) after the 10 o'clock service. Want to help? Contact the church office! 440-528-8938 or [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)



Allen McCrodden	1	Joan Quade	10	Nathan Petznick	19
Jack Burrows	2	Scott Schneider	10	Hudson Schneider	20
Dave Dobos	2	David Schroedel	10	Carol Dambaugh	21
Sue Ellenberger	2	Angela Archacki	11	Megan Louttit	21
Marisol Wylie	2	Barb Berry	11	Adam Derry	22
Ronnie Rajkovich	3	Amy Piorkowski	11	Anna Derry	22
Ed Crist	4	Greg Urso	11	Bryan Derry	22
Malik Khalfani	4	Mitchell Bell	12	Amanda Auble	23
Nicholas Mihalich	4	Penny Burns	12	Logan Hricko	25
Carter Barnum	5	Steve Piorkowski	12	Kayla Kosla	26
Diane Ellis	5	Trinity Crouch	13	Anastasia Brachna	28
Kate Krause	5	Kiira Olszko	13	David Brown	28
Bruce McCrodden	6	Shirley Harper	14	Christine Drescher	29
Mike Memmer	6	Sydney Hazelton	15	Sylvia Fowler	29
Joyce Rossborough	6	Ruth Moorhead	15	Brandon Schroedel	29
Karen Schroedel	6	Hannah Stein	15	Mary Lou Bennett	30
Rachel Dubin	8	Dale Meyer	16	Darell Fisher	30
Steve Harper	8	John Jatsek	17	Todd Fowler	30
Daniel Biggs	9	Elinor Rowan	17	Bob Jaite	30
Dick Gordon	9	Carol Wilson	18	Connor Hulten	31
Charles Helm	9	Jeff Fesler	19	John Scott	31
Daniel Soltis	9	Donald Moorhead	19	Hadley Spencer	31



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. This month, we're thankful for those who serve at a moment's notice. People like Allie Kenney, who stepped up at short notice to provide childcare during John Galik's memorial service; Rick & Heather Dean and Mary Kotnik, who realized that no one had prepared coffee hour one morning, so they stepped in and made it happen; Amy Hazelton who stepped in on a Sunday morning to provide coverage in the crib room. We are also thankful for Alison Bell, and the beautiful testimony she gave about this church and what it means to her during worship services one October morning. We're thankful for each and every one of you, named and unnamed!



# DECEMBER

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Mary Kotnik and Kristi Eberhardt  <i>Interested in serving as a communion steward in 2019?</i>            Contact Leslie: 440-526-8938</p>					 <p>1 9—1 Bike Fix-a-Thon</p>	
<p><b>2 1st Advent Communion</b>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Adult Classes &amp; Christmas Extravaganza!  <b>11:15 Worship</b></p>	<p><b>3</b>            7:30 Mandalas, Candles and Prayer            6 Community Chorus Rehearsal Here</p>	<p><b>4</b>            10 Staff Mtg</p>	<p><b>5</b>            6:30 Breakfast            5 Soup Supper  <b>7:30 Advent Worship Service</b></p>	 <p><b>6</b>            11:30 UMW Christmas Potluck            6:15 Bells            6:30 Yoga            7:30 Choir</p>	<p><b>7</b>            9:30 Mom's Club</p>	<b>8</b>
<p><b>9 2nd Advent</b>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Classes  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            4 Community Chorus Concert            6 HS Movie Night</p>	<p><b>10</b>            7:30 Mandalas, Candles and Prayer</p>	<p><b>11</b>            10 Staff Mtg</p>	<p><b>12</b>            6:30 Breakfast</p>	 <p><b>13</b>            9:30 Asbury Bremeth            6:15 Bells            6:30 Yoga            7:30 Choir</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b>            Greater Cleveland Food Bank             7 MS Movie Night</p>
<p><b>16 3rd Advent</b>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Classes  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            5 All Youth Christmas Party</p>	<p><b>17</b>            7:30 Mandalas            9:30 Mom's Club Play Time            6-8 Yuletide Bikes</p> 	<p><b>18</b>            10 Staff Mtg            11:30 Kononia Holiday Concert            6-8 Yuletide Bikes</p>	<p><b>19</b>            6:30 Breakfast            7 pm Caroling!</p>	 <p><b>20</b>            6:15 Bells            7:30 Choir</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p>	<b>22</b>
<p><b>23 4th Advent</b>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Classes  <b>11:15 Worship</b></p>	 <p><b>24</b></p>	 <p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>            6:30 Breakfast             Church Offices Closed</p>	 <p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<b>29</b>
<p><b>30</b>  <b>10 One Service Today—Christmas Carol Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>31</b>            Office closes at 12:30 pm</p>					



# Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
Paid  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit No.  
928

*Electronic Service Requested*



*Socialize with us!*



## **Wednesday, December 19 at 7 pm**

**Let's Go Caroling!** We'll spread some good old holiday cheer with song! We'll meet just before 7 pm in Fellowship Hall (on the ground floor of the church) then begin our journey about the town. Dress warmly, wear walking shoes, and bring a flashlight. Song books will be provided.

*Bring your friends-- all are welcome!*



**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.



Merry  
Christmas  
**POTLUCK  
LUNCHEON**

**All are welcome!**

Hosted by the Brecksville United Methodist Women

**Thursday, December 6 at 11:30**

**Bring a dish to share. See you in the Church Parlor!**

# POINSETTIAS for HUNGER

Remembering family and friends with a church poinsettia is a beloved Christmas tradition of Brecksville United Methodist Church. By dedicating a poinsettia, you help beautify the sanctuary for worship **and** help feed the hungry! Large pots of flowers will fill the Sanctuary for Christmas. We will order only enough small plants to deliver to the home bound. Proceeds from this sale benefit Brookside Food Center in Cleveland. Together, we can help our hungry neighbors have a happier, healthier Christmas and New Year.

*Poinsettia memorials will be listed in the church bulletin on Sunday December 23 and on Christmas Eve.*

**Do you know someone who would appreciate a visit and a plant? Please list their name(s) here:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Nominate an organization to receive a large poinsettia on Christmas Eve: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you deliver a plant to a fire department, hospital, nursing home, etc.? When? 12/24 12/25 12/26 12/27

## Poinsettia Order Form

**Order deadline is Sunday, December 16.** Names will be in the bulletin on Sunday December 23 and on Christmas Eve. Please include cash or check (made payable to BUMC) with your order. Return in the offering plate, deliver to the church office, or mail to **Brecksville United Methodist Church, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Suggested donation of \$10 for each order.)

IN MEMORY	IN HONOR	<b>FOR</b>	<b>FROM</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____