The Good Word

A newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church. March Issue. Published February 28, 2019.



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP, DETERMINED SERVICE.

making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world
65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO





Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty days of Lent, is a day of repentance and preparation. This first day of Lent is celebrated with a more reflective worship experience, including the sacrament of Communion with the imposition of ashes. The ashes serve as a symbol of repentance: namely, laying aside any burden or habit that separates us from the love of God, a love that is continually present in our lives. Let us begin this Lenten season together in worship, as we once again prepare for the coming of the risen Christ.

All are welcome.

All the time!









The Buy-A-Meal/Give-A-Meal SPAGHETTI DINNER

On February 16, over 100 people gathered in Fellowship hall for an evening of tasty homemade food and fun, including Pastor Clark's World Famous Trivia Challenge. The best part? Together, we raised over \$900 for hunger ministry! How about that? Special thanks to the Mission Committee for coming up with this great idea, and to Ruth Herman, for leading the charge. Shall we do it again next year? *More pictures on our Facebook page (FB/ brecksvilleumc.)*



Make and Give a Birdhouse

Sunday, March 3 at 10 am

- Bring a hammer
- Have safety glasses? Bring those, too. (We have some.)

Want to help? Come on down!



8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Classes for All Ages 11:15 Traditional Worship

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



Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

It can be kind of scary to walk around in the darkness. It isn't so much the dark that is scary as the unknown objects which sometimes lurk in the darkness. It is true for the disciples as they walk with Jesus in the darkness of Lent, and it is still true for us today. Every year that we make this journey, we encounter the dark. In this stretch of the Jesus story, things get intense. We learn over and over again that this is life threatening. We encounter people who aren't happy about who Jesus is, or what he has to say, or what he may or may not be up to, and anyway, just who does he think he is?

All of this darkness comes to a head on Good Friday. It clearly appears that this is all over. Even the curtain in the Temple that conceals the Holy of Holies is torn in two from top to bottom. It clearly seems that even God has left the building. But then...

In the dawn of the Third day after, hope appears in that transition time from darkness to light. Jesus gets up and walks out of a tomb designed to hold what is left of him forever. And the old words from Isaiah take root in a new day, and lend meaning and comfort and hope...

"Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." All these years later that vision of light is distant. It is tiny. There seems at times lots of dark space still between God's people and that speck of light, but the light is there.

This month brings Lent in all of its fullness, in all of its darkness. Try to pay close attention to how much of this part of the story takes place under the cover of night. But the darkness can never hold back the light of a new day. It is the light which has dawned upon the world in Jesus which is growing from dawn to daylight as we come to understand his message and his love for us. I hope to see you at worship or bible study or out and about in town as we journey together once again from darkness into light. I hope you will take the time to consider with us old words for new days.

Altar Flowers Help Beautify Worship

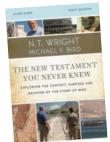
Do you want to sponsor flowers on a Sunday? We only have flowers scheduled on one Sunday in March and in April! Contact Leslie 440-526-8938







The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God - February 24 through April 14



Do you know the real story behind the New Testament? We all share a fascination for discovering 'the rest of the story.' We enjoy learning the behind-the-scenes facts about seemingly familiar events. Join Pastor Clark to explore the hidden meanings behind the explosive story of the New Testament.

You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the

incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today.

Through reading the New Testament we continually discover that God indeed keeps God's promises, but those promises don't always look like what people expected. Especially when it comes to Jesus. So, come join the journey and gain new insight into the New Testament.

Breaking Bread Together –

an Intergenerational study of Holy Communion *March 10- April 14*

On the first Sunday of every month we come together as a community of believers to break bread and remind ourselves of the holy mystery of Communion. Communion is one of our two sacraments we celebrate as Methodists and our practice of an open table is a cornerstone of the Methodist belief system. But what is it really all about?

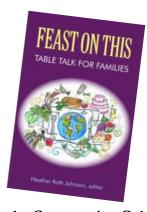


Join Jenny and Dana to explore several basic and common questions about the meaning of Holy Communion: What does Scripture tell us about the holy meal? What do the various names for Holy Communion mean, and how do they shape our understanding of its meaning? What does Holy Communion do in and for the life of the church? Who can receive Holy Communion in The United Methodist Church? How often should we celebrate or receive Communion?

You may have other questions you want to ask, and we encourage you to bring them with you! This class is designed for any interested adults, our high schoolers and our sixth and seventh graders.



Our Prayer Labyrinth will be set up in the Chapel throughout Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday, March 6, it will remain up through April 22. Stop in anytime the church is open for self guided prayer and meditation.



Keep the Conversation Going at Home. We all love food and feasting around the table as a family. Why not use this Lenten Devotional, Feast on This: Table Talk for Families during family meals starting Ash Wednesday, March 6, through Easter Monday, April 22. It's simple to do and takes 5 minutes. Read the daily devotional, ask the question, and then pray. You can use this devotional while you eat dinner, lunch, or breakfast together, in the car, or before bed. Download a free copy here:

tinyurl.com/yyu5mbsw

Did You Know...

... that every Sunday there is a new 'Question of the Week' posted on the small chalk board in the Parlor? Check out the question and ask it around the dinner table one night this week, or chat with a friend on your way up to Sunday school. Just enjoying coffee with some friends in the parlor? What a great way to start up the conversation. Have a question you'd like to see asked on the board? Let us know.

Save the Dates

April 15 (rain date April 16) Outdoor Scavenger Hunt This will be a fun family event to help us celebrate Holy Week and Easter while appreciating the natural beauty all around us. 12:00 – 1:30 pm, program will be repeated 6-7:30 pm. *More details in the next Good Word!*



"Hi! My name's Veronica. What's your name?" Kids sure know how to make new friends, don't they? They see someone new on the playground and walk right up and say "hi!" Before you know it, the kids have learned that they both hate raisins and love playing on the swing set. Bam! They're friends.

For some of us, striking up conversation gets harder as we get older. We worry, don't we? What if I already met that person? What if that person doesn't want to talk to me? Or worse, what if we don't have anything in common and I run out of things to say? And then there's the dreaded "I think her name is Veronica, but maybe it's Vanessa?"

Pastor Clark's sermon series has been "Don't sweat the small stuff." All of those questions running through our heads when we're mustering up the courage to say "hello" to someone new at church? That's small stuff. The big stuff is to *try!* The Bible is clear about this one, with several scriptures commanding that we practice hospitality. Loving one another is a big part of being a Christian. Loving starts with saying "Hi! I see you over there! I'm glad we're here together."

We may not know everyone in the pews around us, but God knows each of our names. We will never look another person in the eye who is not loved by God. So, when you see someone at church (or on the street or in the break room or on a bus or in the grocery store...) summon your inner child and reach out and say "Hi! What's your name?" You just might change the world.

- The Welcome Committee





The UMW meeting on Thursday, March 7 program will feature an overview of Stepstone Academy by Arian May. The K-2, tuition free, charter school is part of Ohio Guidestone located in the Cleveland Central neighborhood. The morning begins 9:30 with Continental breakfast followed by the 10:00 program. Everyone is welcome. Won't you join us?

Can't make it to a daytime meeting? Consider joining the UMW
Evening Circle! At our next meeting,
March 13 at 6:30 pm, we'll gather in the
church kitchen to assemble meals to deliver to folks who need a little TLC. All
are welcome!





Need some interesting reading materials? Check out the UMW mini "library" in the parlor. The books reflect various topics. There's sure to be a book of interest to you. Sign out a book and return when you have completed reading.

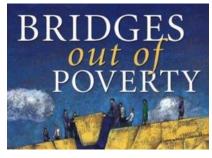


When Lastoria's BP Station relocated to Broadview Heights, our community lost a popular spot for fundraising car washes. We can help fill that need by offering our church parking lot to school athletic & music boosters, academic clubs and Scouts!

To extend a sense of welcome, the welcome committee needs your help. We would like to provide soap, buckets and car air fresheners for these groups to use. If you'd like to help provide one of these items, contact the office or look for the car wash display coming soon in the church Parlor.

If you are part of an organization interested in hosting a car wash here, please call Melanie in the church office for details and to schedule a date. (First come, first served!) 440-526-8938. A flyer about the program is posted on our website:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/carwash.pdf



Spring District Conference And Leadership Academy

Saturday, March 30 - 9 am - 12 pm United Methodist Church of Berea 170 Seminary St., Berea 44017

You are invited to an exciting 2-for-1 morning. In just 3 short hours, we will combine the nec-

essary business of the district with an opportunity to be stretched in our understanding of ministry with the poor. After the requisite coffee and morning snacks, we will quickly and efficiently complete our Spring District Conference Meeting, enabling us to devote the remainder of our time together to an introductory presentation on Bridges Out of Poverty by Jennifer Hedinger and her team from OhioGuidestone. The morning will include helpful research and information, personal stories, and testimonials by those whose lives have been changed through the work of Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead.

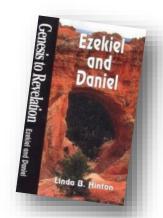
This event is for clergy, lay leadership, mission/outreach committee chairs and members, and thoughtful, interested folks who want to begin to understand how we move our congregations beyond canned food (diaper, mitten) drives and all of the other wonderful, generous things we do in churches to relational and transformational work within our communities. Best of all, attendees will have the opportunity to sign up for their choice of follow up events at no charge before leaving on March 30th. Opportunities will include Bridges Out of Poverty training/certification (market value \$99) and participation in a district-wide poverty simulation (market value: priceless). Those in attendance on March 30 will have first choice at signing up with all fees waived. Register online: https://tinyurl.com/v33to72t



Church Council is a great opportunity to hear more about the vision, planning and implementation of the ministry of Brecksville United Methodist Church. We had great attendance at our recent meeting on February 12. All are welcome! Highlights from our recent meeting included passing of the 2019 budget, approving a tithe from the Sally Bibler Estate Gift to Missions and approving a transfer from the Sally Bibler Estate Gift to the General Reserve. Meeting minutes are posted online:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/news/read/?ID=4343

There was also a proposal for a thoughtful church-wide, committee-wide discussion on *How Would Jesus Have Us Be* which was met with excitement. More to come from Pastor Clark with help from Dana and Jamie!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Join Pastor Clark and Friends on Wednesday Evenings at 7 pm in the Parlor for an insightful study of the books of Ezekiel and Daniel, books which provide some of the most memorable stories and images of the Old Testament. The twelve week study begins February 20. Sign up on Sunday in the lobby, call the office, or just drop in!



The Finance Committee reports that the church received our first deposit from Amazon Smile. \$81.37 was donated to the church because 24 people shopped and selected this church as their charity on Amazon.

Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Go to

<u>smile.amazon.com/ch/34-6004043</u>

In the future, log on to Amazon at Smile.Amazon.com



MUSIC WITH A MISSION is a few short weeks away. Join us on March 15 for a fun, family-friendly dinner and variety show and fundraiser for our youth group. HELP SEND KIDS ON A SUMMER MISSION TRIP!

Your donations to the Music with a Mission Silent Auction will help send our team to Racine Wisconsin this summer to help people in need with essential home repairs. If you enjoy putting together gift baskets on your own, or if you have a business or service that you'd like to promote to the congregation, please reply to this e-mail or contact <u>Dana Schwendeman</u> 440-526-8938 x 237

Some of the donations received so far include:

- The Brachna's Homemade Pie of the Month Club.
- Two tickets to the <u>Rock and Roll Hall</u> of Fame.
- Nancy Lee is donating three necklaces from her business <u>handmadebead-</u> edjewelry.org
- A \$50 Amazon Gift Card from the Campbells. (<u>Shop Amazon Smile!</u>)
- Tony Petro's Milling Services. (He'll come to your house and process a felled tree!)

All donors are clearly labeled during the auction, thanked in the show program, and promoted during advertising for the event. If you have a business, this is an awesome way to reach the people of the church! Contact Dana Schwendeman, Youth Director, with questions:

440-526-8938 x 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com.

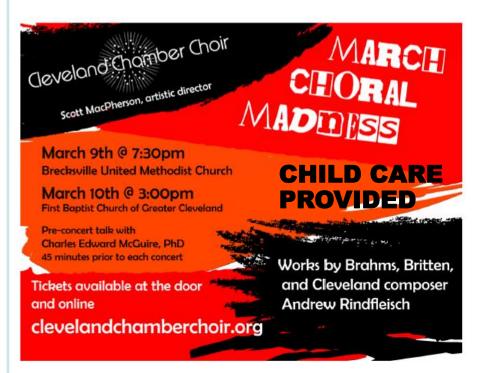
A Message from Bishop Tracy S. Malone



I am calling all lay and clergy of East Ohio to attend an informational gathering led by me and members of the General Conference delegation. The meeting for the Northern Region of our Conference will be held **Sunday, March 10 from 4 – 5:30 pm at Strongsville UMC.** We will present the facts of what happened at

the Special Session (what decisions were made) and share how we move forward – what comes next – as we live into the mission of the Church which is, and will be, still yet alive! I ask you to join me in prayer for the mission of our beloved Church and our way forward together. We know that through Christ all things are possible! I offer this prayer of Jesus as a word of hope and blessing!

"I pray they will be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I pray that they also will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. I've given them the glory that you gave me so that they can be one just as we are one. I'm in them and you are in me so that they will be made perfectly one. Then the world will know that you sent me and that you have loved them just as you loved me." John 17:21-23



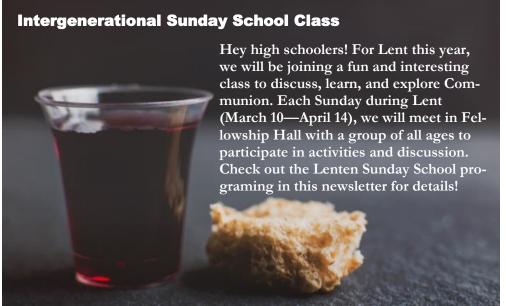
March Choral Madness. Come hear the stunning voices of the Cleveland Chamber Choir in their performances of *March Choral Madness* In addition to several part songs of outlandish beauty by Brahms, the Choir will present Britten's rarely heard A.M.D.G. (Ad majorem Dei gloriam—To the Greater Glory of God), a cycle of seven poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins. These insanely virtuosic pieces, penned when Britten was only twenty-six years old, contain the broad spectrum from frenzied passion to absolute calm. Rindfleisch's five pieces likewise cover a vast range of emotion from enraged raving to rhythmically charged playfulness to sublime repose and magnificent beauty. Whether you call it raving, insane, outlandish, or passionate, *March Choral Madness* is more than music or poetry...through the intensity of their singing, the Cleveland Chamber Choir offers a depth of emotion and feeling that neither poetry or music can deliver alone! *Post concert reception hosted by the Music & Worship Board*.





All Youth Dinner March 3-5-7 pm

Students in grades 6-12, join us in Fellowship Hall (first floor) for dinner and a mission project. Special thanks to The Brachna Family for sponsoring our meal this month! On the menu: Pizza and salad!





Beat the Winter Blues with Summer Fun!

We have so many wonderful things happening this summer and it'll be here before we know it. Now is the time to sign up for youth ministry opportunities during summer break! Here are two of the awesome things planned. (Sign up before March 31 for early bird pricing. Contact Dana!)

- **YSP Jr.** Who says you are too young to make a difference? NOT US! Middle Schoolers will spend three days doing something that matters to the community during this "mini mission" experience. Dates to save: June 3-5
- Youth Annual Conference (YAC) Lakeside, OH is a gorgeous location for a weekend of youth empowerment and letting your voice be heard. Young people from all over the East Ohio Conference will come together for the weekend, discussing issues that are most important to them. There are break out sessions, sports tournaments, a charity run, and other awesomely fun activities all conference long. YAC is a youth ministry tradition that we love to be a part of! Dates to save: June 7-9.

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



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin



@BrecksvilleumcYouth



Our annual Youth Service Project Fundraiser kicks off March 15. Order forms due April 27. Plants will be delivered May 11. Look for order forms at Music with a Mission and on Sundays!

Scholarship Deadlines

4.12 Lions Club

4.26 Music & Worship

Download Applications online: <u>www.brecksvilleumc.com/</u> <u>forms</u>



Registration is open for

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL July 8—12

For PreK—5th Grade. Sign up at **Brecksvilleumc.com/VBS**

\$25 for the whole week*

Maximum cost is \$50 per family*

*if registered and paid by June 16

Parents who volunteer all week can sign their children up for \$10 each!



E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!
office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-526-8938

On February 10, we celebrated the baptism of Megan Rose Juniper, daughter of Rebecca (Salsbury) and David. May Megan's relationship with God grow each day throughout her life!

"To my beloved friends at BUMC, My warmest and heartfelt thanks for all of your prayers, healing thoughts, and cards, for the lovely visit from Robin Raybuck and Craig Czarnota (and the delicious dinner they brought but together by many of you) and the lunch we enjoyed together. I offer more thanks than I can express! For the caring of the staff who bought a feast of a dinner(s) for us, thank you ever so very much. How wonderful it is to be surrounded by a faith family with love and care. Though healing is slow, I am looking forward to returning the beginning of March and seeing you once again. With love and so much appreciation, Pastor Barbara"



The Luck of the Irish will be with us as we assemble a buffet of foods in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Won't you join us?

TUESDAY, March 12

Join us at noon in Fellowship Hall. FREE IF YOU RSVP! 440-526-8938



Brianna Diver	1	George Gee	10	Matthew Gardner	18
Jack Falko	1	Sharon Judson	10	Bob Hudacek	18
Edie Coman	2	Mike Kubek	10	Dave Sibits	18
Mary Kotnik	2	Bob Bloch	11	Kristen Kubek	20
Eileen Yates	2	Janet James	12	Stosh Skoczen	20
Tiffany Jacob	5	Tyler Hulten	13	Sienna Petznick	22
Phyllis Phillips	5	Kaden Juniper	13	Liz Fredrick	25
Caitlin Drescher	6	Sydney Hudacek	14	Stacie Memmer	25
Ron Goodin	6	Lisa Sibits	14	Mallory Krolikowski	26
Donald Burkle	7	Lindsay Dorman	15	Joe Holmes	27
Megan White	7	Lee Derry	16	Carol Kubicek	27
Ruth Ann Bilek	8	Samuel Eberhardt	16	Kim Rybak	30
Kaleb Dumot	8	Zoey Telischak	16	Hannah Shively	30
Matthew Auble	9	Joann Fox	17	Madeline Piorkowski	31
Cliff Thielman	9	Carly Johnson	17		



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 weeks, prayers of thanks were lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. For instance, Jinho Lee spent countless hours repairing and refurbishing bikes during the recent government shutdown, and spent time training others to

do the same. Because of this effort, 30 bikes were delivered to people in need in February. So many kids put their hearts and their talents into this year's Children's Worship. What a delight! (If you missed Ella Davis's debut as Jesus's mother, check out the video on our YouTube channel!) Nancy Knowlton was at the church one afternoon when a young man came in looking for food assistance, and was moved to donate grocery store gift cards, bringing Luke 6: 27-38 to life. Rick and Heather Dean have been such a blessing to our welcoming ministry, volunteering to serve as ushers when we were at a loss for ushers—really saving the day. Every time we have an infant baptism, Liz Fredrick creates a beautiful blanket with the child's name and baptismal date on it. Did you know that? Because of the work of a great team of folks, the Buy-a-meal/Give-a-meal Spaghetti Dinner for Hunger was a great success. Special thanks to Ruth Herman, Ben & Jill Magistro, Lori Rusrerholtz and Mary Kotnik. We're so thankful for all of you and for all of the ways you share God's love with the world!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ruth Herman & Bev Gooding	Ash Wo	ednesday	7		1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 Communion 8:45 Worship 10 Build and Share a birdhouse 11:15 Worship 5 All Youth Dinner	4	5 10 Staff Mtg	6 6:30 Breakfast 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	7 9:30 UMW Mtg 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	8 9:30 Mom's Club	9 7:30 Cleveland Chamber Choir March Choral Madness Concert
10 Lent and Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 4 Way Forward Mtg 6 MSYG/HSHZ* 7 HSYG/MSHZ*	11	12 10 Staff Mtg 12 2nd Tues. Lunch Bunch LUNCH BUNCH	13 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 pm Evening Circle	9:30 Asbury Bremeth 5-10 Music with a Mission Rehearsal	15 Music with a Mission SONGS ON SAFARI	YSP Hanging Basket Sale 3/15—4/27
17 Second Sunday Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 4 Way Forward Mtg 6 MSYG/HSHZ* 7 HSYG/MSHZ*	18	19 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stich'n'Time 7:30 Trustees	20 6:30 Breakfast 7 Pastor's Bible Study	21 6:15 Bells 7 Missions 7:30 Choir	22	23
24 Third Sunday Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 3 Pearl Road Dinner 6 MSYG/HSHZ* 7 HSYG/MSHZ*	25 Leadership Academy Registrations Due Today!	26 10 Staff Mtg 5:30 Getting Ahead Mission 7 Finance	27 6:30 Breakfast 7 Pastor's Bible Study	28 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	29 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	30 9-12 Spring District Conference and Leadership Academy
31 Fourth Cunday Lant	ويستنهسون	•	•			•

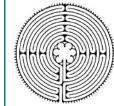
31 Fourth Sunday Lent

8:45 Worship

10 Classes

11:15 Worship

3 Pearl Road Dinner 6 MSYG/HSHZ* 7 HSYG/MSHZ* Church Audit Due Today



Prayer Labyrinth in the Chapel

Enrich your prayer life with the labyrinth. Beginning March 7, and throughout the season of Lent, our Prayer Labyrinth will be set up in the Chapel anytime that the church is open. Resources will be available for your self guided walk!

*High School Homework Zone/Middle School Youth Group, etc.



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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.





Join us for To Mars and Beyond VBS!

July 8—12, 2019

9 am until Noon, Monday through Friday. For kids from pre-school through 5th Grade.

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

65 Public Square Brecksville, Ohio 44141. Register online: www.brecksvilleumc.com/vbs