

The Good Word

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



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP. DETERMINED SERVICE.

making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO



A PASTORAL CHANGE AHEAD



Reverend Clark Stein has been appointed to serve the Hudson United Methodist Church in the Canal District effective July 1, 2019. Reverend Stein will continue to serve as our pastor in Brecksville until June 30.

In the United Methodist Church ordained pastors freely agree to serve where they may be appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet. All clergy appointments are made based upon the pastor's gifts, experience, skills and abilities and the circumstances and leadership needs of each local church.

Pastor Clark and Kathy came to us 9 years ago. He has been a caring and steady force throughout that time. He has been an excellent teacher, worship leader, and preacher. He has been with us in moments of celebration and need. He has led us in worship, helped us be more open to diversity, and led us to become more engaged in our community. He has helped us learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We wish him well and are grateful for the years we have shared.

Our District Superintendent, Dr. Steve Bailey and our Bishop, Tracy Malone, have announced that our next pastoral leader will be Reverend Heidi Welch. The Staff Parish Relations Committee met with Reverend Welch and her family and feel this is a very good match. We look forward to her leadership in the coming years.

A native of Conneaut, Ohio, Rev. Welch is completing a four year appointment as the Associate Pastor at the Medina United Methodist Church.



She also served two small congregations in the Mid-Ohio District while in seminary at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. Her undergraduate degree is from Youngstown State University with a B.A in Religious Studies. She is excited about coming to serve our church and is very happy to serve in an open, affirming, and reconciling congregation.

Reverend Welch brings many skills and abilities as she comes to lead our congregation. She excels at creating a shared vision of ministry that engages the congregational leaders, the church staff, and the members and friends of the congregation. She is highly relational and enjoys developing strong relationships with those she serves. She loves preaching, teaching, and making community connections. She relates well with people of all ages and she really enjoys children and youth. She is committed to leading a church that extends God's love to all people and that plays a relevant role in the life of the community.

Her husband Rasul (Rus) Welch is a professional chef currently working at Spice Kitchen in Gordon Square, where he is responsible for the Catering activities of the restaurant. He has also worked as a professional photographer in the food industry. The Welch's have two children – Joseph is 8 years old and Corrie just turned 5.

In the months to come, the Staff Parish Relations, Trustees, and Reverend Stein will be working with Reverend Welch to insure a smooth and productive transition time. -Submitted by Staff Parish Relations Committee



Sunday Morning Worship

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10:00 Classes for All Ages

11:15 Traditional Worship

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

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

education@brecksvilleumc.com

Youth Director:

Dana Schwendeman

youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Music Director:

Malik Khalfani

music@brecksvilleumc.com

Praise Band: **Jamie Schwendeman**

jamie@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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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!



Sacred Empty Spaces

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

“He is not here, but has risen.”

Luke 24:6a

As I sit down to write this article, it is officially spring. I am writing on the first day of spring, and the sun is shining on the landscape outside my window, and birds are chirping over the sounds of traffic and the constant beep beep beep of the heavy machinery building a new bank across the street. It seems to be an Easter like day, as new beginnings surround me from the outside in...

There was a Sunday School teacher who had just finished telling her third graders about how Jesus was crucified and placed in a tomb with a great stone sealing the only way in or out. Then, wanting to share the excitement of the resurrection, and the surprise of Easter morning, she asked, “And what do you think were Jesus’ first words when he came bursting out of that tomb alive?”

A hand shot up in the air from the rear of the classroom. It belonged to a most excited little girl. Leaping out of her chair she shouted excitedly, “I know, I know, I know.” “Good.” Said the teacher, “tell us.”

Extending her arms high in the air she sang out, “Ta-da!”

I have shared with many of you the irony of the notion that we hold empty spaces to be very sacred. Be they empty chairs around our tables that used to hold grandparents, or parents, or children long since grown up and moved on, or dear friends or spouses. Memorials often work the same way, erected in now empty spaces that remind us that significant people and things occupied this space at one time. The empty tomb is like that. We know that it was once occupied, but its emptiness speaks volumes to us that we can’t even adequately relate to anything we might describe.

I suggest to you that all of these things combine to give you “Ta-da!” moments on every turn. I pray that as you make your way through this Easter time of new life, new beginnings, new seasons, the empty spaces, and the spaces that are filled with new people and meaning for you, set off this simple “Ta-da” in your brains and hearts. I feel it must be one of God’s sacred words, uttered every time someone “gets it” and journeys towards home...

Fifth Sunday Music

March 31. We will be joined in worship by clarinetist, Emilio Rosario. A gifted musician, Emilio is pursuing his master’s degree at Cleveland State. The Chancel Choir will also perform at both services! This is the first in a series of 5th Sunday Musical guests in 2019.

Pastor Clark

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

In the Parlor at 10 am

April Hosts

UMW & Trustees





Join us for this quiet and reflective time of worship in the church sanctuary. The word “Tenebrae” means darkness. In this service, eight candles, symbolize the flight and denial of disciples and friends after the crucifixion. A ninth candle, symbolizing Christ, remains lighted throughout the service. In that light we find forgiveness and fellowship in communion with our Lord. This is a powerful worship experience.



The University of Minnesota's Eco-Palms program ensures that the palm leaves we use on Palm Sunday were harvested in an environmentally sensitive manner by workers getting paid a fair price. As you celebrate Palm Sunday, say a prayer of thanks for those who harvested our palms, for their families, for their communities, and for those who minister to them.



April 21: Gather with friends and neighbors at the gazebo on Brecksville Square for worship, Scripture readings and a short message. Dress casually and for the weather. Bring a blanket, a lawn chair and a friend and join us to watch the sunrise as we celebrate the resurrected Lord.



April 21: Join us for triumphant worship celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! (There will be no education hour offerings on Easter Sunday.) He is risen! He is risen indeed!



Take some time for prayer and reflection with the prayer labyrinth, a self-guided prayer tool in the Chapel (on the main floor of the church building) and available for use anytime the church building is open through Lent.

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.

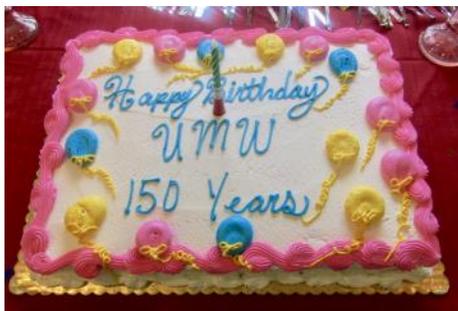
Labyrinths and mazes are sometimes confused; but they are quite different from each other. A maze is a puzzle to be solved with its twists, turns, and blind alleys. It is a left brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical thinking to find the correct path. A labyrinth has only one circuitous 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.

Music, special lighting, and devotional tools are all available for use on your walk. If you would like more information, please contact Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education at church!



PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

Why slave over a hot oven? Let the United Methodist Women do the baking for you! Shop the UMW Palm Sunday Bake Sale before or after church services on April 14. Your purchases support the UMW Mission Fund which benefits programs supporting women and children locally and around the world. **Calling all bakers!** Want to donate to the sale? Bring your treats to the church kitchen (wrapped for individual sale) on Saturday, April 13 between noon and 3 pm. Thank you!



At the March UMW Meeting, we celebrated 150 years in mission. Happy Birthday, United Methodist Women!



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

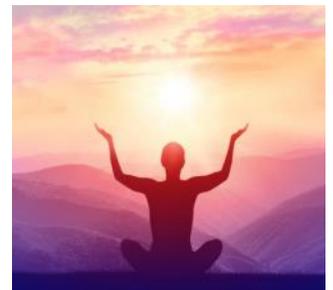


COMPUTER SECURITY. Thursday, April 4. Doug Huber, LCCC associate professor will present this timely information and insight into the world of computers. Join us at 9:30 am for a Continental breakfast followed by the 10 am program. **Everyone is welcome!** Join us for a morning of fellowship learning!

NEED SOME INTERESTING READING MATERIALS? Check out the UMW mini “library” in the parlor. The books reflect various topics....and there’s sure to be a book of interest to you. Sign it out and return when you have completed reading.

FINDING SPIRITUAL WELLNESS THROUGH MUSIC IMAGRY.

Are you interested in connecting or re-connecting with your spirituality through music? Join Mallory Krolikowski, MT-BC in an exploration of spiritual wellness through music imagery. This free, six session group will focus on finding meaning in your life, self-care, relaxation, gratitude, creativity and living a life that reflects your values and beliefs. We will meet at the church, dates and times to be determined by your availability. Contact Mallory at mkrolikowski@antioch.edu if you are interested or want more information. Mallory is currently involved in training in Music Imagery, which is part of the Bonny Method of guided Imagery and Music.



DINE OUT FOR UMW MISSIONS! It’s time again to mark your calendars for UMW Annual Creekside Dash or Dine Fund Raiser. Tuesday, April 9th is the date. Not only are you supporting a local restaurant and UMW Mission Funds, it’s a “no cooking” day for you. Remember that you can dine in or take out. Clip the coupon below and present it to your server!

Creekside

RESTAURANT & BAR

UMW Fundraiser for Missions

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

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

When: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - Anytime between 11 am and 10 pm

What: Give your server this flyer and 20% of your bill (excluding alcoholic beverages) will be donated to the Brecksville United Methodist Women mission fund, which helps women and children. A flyer is necessary for each bill. **Carryout is included!** Menu available at www.creeksiderestaurant.com or call 440-546-0555.



BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BREAD MINISTRY

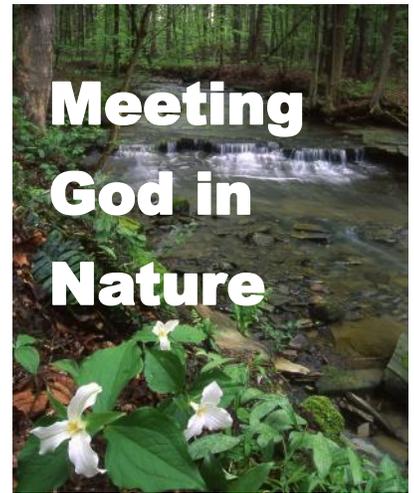
“Would your church be willing to take over a wonderful ministry?” The woman on the other end of the telephone line explained that -for years- she had been going to the turnpike stations (off of Edgerton and Towpath Roads) every Saturday morning to pick up unsold baked goods to deliver to a soup kitchen downtown. She and her brother used to do this together, but he had died and she was finding the bags too heavy to handle on her own. Would we be willing to take over?

WE ARE and we currently have 8 -10 teams committed to taking turns weekly gathering the baked goods and delivering these pastries, bread, rolls and bagels to places like the Parma Height Food Pantry, which provides food to nearly 300 families and St. Augustine and St. Herman’s which each serve thousands of meals every week. This food will feed hungry families.

Some of the pastries are being set aside to replace the goodies coffee hour volunteers have been purchasing or baking. Monetary donations made during coffee hour will go directly to the Hunger Fund. In the first two weeks, we generated over \$80! That is amazing. Thank You!

During coffee hour as you enjoy a muffin, bear claw, cookie, etc. think about the many lives we are touching through our small monetary donations as well how many people we will help with approximately five very large plastic bags filled with baked goods we take to a pantry or hunger center.

Special thanks to those who have signed up to be a part of this new ministry: Mary & Craig Kotnik, Beth Smith, Alan & Debbi Scheufler, John & Carole Brachna, Jeff & Sue Hastings, George & Jenny Gee, Tim & Leslie Miller, Brent Barnum and Cara Santora. If you would like to learn how you can get involved, contact Mary Kotnik, Missions Committee Co-Chair at mekotnik@yahoo.com.



**Meeting
 God in
 Nature**

**April 15
 (rain date April 16)**

12 - 1:30 pm and
 repeated from 6 - 7:30 pm

Throughout Lent we have been working on centering ourselves with prayer and positive actions. Let’s really observe together this holiest of church weeks with a day of exploring and appreciating the natural world. There is so much happening at the park right now that a hike is the right way to not only witness, but celebrate God’s creative genius. This program is designed for both adults and families. Please RSVP to the office or sign up on the clip board in the signup rounder to find out our meeting location, which right now is to be determined. - *Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education*



FREE CONCERT

Brecksville Broadview Heights Community Chorus
 presents their free spring concert

The Silence and the Song(s)

Sunday, April 7 at 4 pm

in our beautiful Sanctuary.

A reception follows in Fellowship Hall!



***Altar Flowers
 Help Beautify Worship***

Do you want to sponsor flowers on a Sunday? Contact
 Leslie 440-526-8938



Brecksville
United Methodist Church
BICYCLE MINISTRY



Spring cleaning? Don't send your unwanted items to the dump! These organizations all offer FREE PICK UP!

AMVETS

866-388-0046

Clothing, household, toys, books, etc.

City Mission (donatestuff.com)

216-662-4483

Clothing, household items

Cleveland Furniture Bank

216-459-2265 x 101

Furniture, household items

Gathering Place Warehouse

216-595-9546 (will pack up, too)

Furniture, household, antiques, china, crystal, silverware, art, rugs, lamps, mirrors, costume jewelry

Habitat for Humanity

216-429-3631

Furniture, appliances, building materials, household.

Salvation Army, 800-728-7825

Furniture, clothing, household

**FESTIVAL OF GOD'S CREATION
SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

A relationship with God's creation and a ministry of caring for and healing the earth are integral to what it means to be a United Methodist. The following is an excerpt from the *Social Principles: The Natural World*: "All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect."

From Social Principles: The Natural World in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

Bike Opportunities Abound this Spring

Offering Hospitality to Cyclists. May is National Bike Month...that's right *national!* Communities all over America are hosting all sorts of fabulous events — but the biggest day of the month is Bike to Work Day. This year, Bike to Work Week will be May 13–19, with **Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17.**

Join us as we partner with Bike Brecksville to hand out Grab-n-Go breakfast bags to commuters who pass by our church. We will be set up on our new bike patio to show a bit of hospitality and get the word out that bicyclists from all over are welcomed and invited to use the space. If you work downtown, consider parking your bike here and taking the bus!

Reach out to Jenny if you can be here early in the morning to hand out treats or help put bags together in advance.

Pedal for Prizes. The Old Brooklyn Community is hosting a wonderful neighborhood event on May 18 from 10 am to 1 pm called Pedal for Prizes! Many local businesses will be on set up to hand out goodies to kids and adults who peddle by on their bikes. Our Bike Ministry has donated many bikes to the Pearl Road UMC who have in turn given them to folks in that neighborhood. We will be trying to outfit as many kids in need with a bicycle before the event and we are excited to have been invited to be at the event handing out prizes! Can you join us? Do you have a great idea for a prize? Contact Jenny with your suggestions or availability.

For more details about the Pedal for Prizes, check out the Pedal For Prizes event link on our Facebook page!

Save the Dates

- Bike Ministry peddles along in the **Brecksville Memorial Day Parade** on Monday, **May 27** at 10 am. Walkers and riders are invited to celebrate this holiday tradition and promote community awareness for our bike ministry.
- **Bike Patio Blessing.** Launch into the peddling season the right way- by allowing Pastor Clark to bless you, your bike, your helmet... whatever symbolizes your future biking this season. This will also be a way to properly open our bike patio for business. Join us between services on June 2.

DID YOU KNOW...

40% of all trips in the U.S. are less than two miles, making bicycling a feasible and fun way to get to work. With increased interest in healthy, sustainable and economic transportation options, it's not surprising that, from 2000 to 2013, the number of bicycle commuters in the U.S. grew by more than 62 percent.

Hundreds of American communities have been successful in increasing bicycle commuting by providing **Bike to Work Week** and **Bike to Work Day** events.



Scholarship Deadlines

4.12 Lions Club

4.26 Music & Worship

Download Applications online:
[www.brecksvilleumc.com/
forms](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/forms)

April 7 Community Chorus Concert & Honey Hut - 4 pm
High school and middle school students, come support our church family members and enjoy some great music! Meet us in the Sanctuary at 3:50 pm. The music begins at 4 pm. Weather permitting, after the concert we will walk over to Honey Hut for some ice cream! This will be our fellowship for the night, there will be no home-work zone or regular youth group that evening.

April 14 All Youth Dinner - 5 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall
It's that time again. Time for food and fellowship together! Students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall (first floor) for dinner and a mission project. Special thanks to The Kotnik Family for sponsoring our meal this month!

April 21 Easter Sunday
We hope you'll join us for our Easter Sunday celebrations! (There is no homework zone or youth group on Easter, enjoy the time with your families!)

- **Outdoor Sunrise Service** - 6:15 am - A relaxed and reflective early morning service with music and spoken word. Open to all!
- **Sanctuary Easter Service** - 8:45 am and 11:15 am- Let's celebrate the risen Christ with worship, scripture readings, and preaching. Join our church family as we make another year of Easter memories!

April 26 Youth Service Project Hanging Basket Sale
Order forms are due April 26! Help our group serve in Racine, WI this summer. We will be doing home repair and connecting with other churches from around the country. Hanging basket pick up will be May 11 and 12! Order form in this issue of the newsletter and online.

April 28 Festival of God's Creation
We will be having regular youth group, with a twist! To celebrate Earth Day, we will be doing some activities and games that remind us to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Come to youth group and learn all about the importance of stewardship!

The Brecksville UMC Music and Worship Scholarship will be awarded to select High School Seniors who have participated in the music and worship program during their time at BUMC and intend to continue as active worshipers as they pursue additional education. Students may attend a 2-year, 4-year or non-traditional post-secondary institution; they need not major in music.



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!

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



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin



@BrecksvilleumcYouth



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

“My sincere appreciation and thanks for all the prayers, visits, cards and thoughts that have been so supportive for my recent surgery and its long recovery. I believe I am doing well and will see the surgeon in a couple weeks to advance the mobility of my shoulder. It was so good to see all the wonderful people yesterday at BUMC service. You all are very important to me and I am comforted to be part of this church. Fondly, Kendall Lancaster”

On Sunday, March 24, we celebrated the baptism of Nathan Ryan Gardner, son of Emily and David. (Nathan’s brother, Matthew, was baptized here in 2016.) Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith. We celebrate that Nathan’s journey begins in the nurturing community of our church, and pray that he learns what it means that God loves him here.

“I and my family wanted to thank all of you who prayed for my family, sent beautiful cards, called and were so helpful in dealing with the loss of two of my brothers. It was so unexpected but I truly believe your prayers gave me the strength I needed. Thank you and God bless you. Shelly Meek”



Beryl Burkle	1	Dale Beaver	12	Marilyn Sewell	21
Doug Holmes	1	Carri Kenney	13	Ralph Slifcak	22
Lauren Brinkmann	2	Kathy Louttit	13	John Brachna	25
Leanne Davis	2	Alex McMaster	13	Tate Fowler	25
Sherry Klodnick	3	Payton Schneider	13	Ruth Holmes	25
Julie Kubek	3	Andrew Fredrick	14	Katie Kiss	25
Matthew Agnew	4	Ed Jones	14	John Prominski	25
Jessica Agostine	4	Addie Magee	14	Chase Boldt	26
Brad Holmok	4	Vince Marotto	14	Lilliana BonTempo	26
James Fredrick	5	Maddie Miller	14	Sara Louttit	26
Lianna Meyer	5	Mark Pace	14	Alison Donze	27
Bryan Daugherty	6	Matt Nelson	15	Becky Juniper	27
Stella McCrodden	6	Jim Neidinger	16	Nancy Kroenke	28
Claire Palmer	7	Janine Telischak	16	Matt Salisbury	28
Lily Seifert	7	Gail Huth	18	Barb Toman	28
Derek Brinkmann	8	Ken Wise	18	Mia Baker	29
Dorothy Pliske	8	Stephanie Roberts	19	Bud Engelhardt	29
Donna Eilbeck	10	Zachary Brachna	20	Nell Taylor	29
Alan Harper	10	Judy Burroughs	21	Sheri Zakarowsky	29
Avery Petznick	10	Caitlin Dieringer	21	Lynn Dorman	30
Hannah Johnson	11	Maryanne Salisbury	21	Barbara Harper	30
				Bob Wuerth	30



As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings 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. Our “Make and Give a Birdhouse” Sunday was made possible by Tony Petro sharing his wonderful gifts. Did you know that he milled all of the wood, cut

out all the pieces, and taught more than 60 people how to make a birdhouse? That’s amazing. We are so blessed to have people like Mary & Craig Kotnik taking seeds of ideas, like our new bread ministry, and turning them into reality. With their guidance, more people are being fed each week in our communities. Dana put out a last minute call for help with Music with a Mission, and Amy Piorkowski cheerfully answered. The whole event was a giant success because of the hard work of our church youth, volunteers, and lots of talented performers. Let’s all lift up a prayer of thanks for the ways that lives will be changed this summer with the money we raised at the event! Recently, two young people shared their musical gifts in worship—Sean Brown played the piano for the Chapel Service at Chippewa Place and Hannah Botzman helped lead singing in worship. We’re thankful for both of you! This list could go on and on this month! What joy we share in service!



TUESDAY, April 9

This month, we’re dining at Creekside for UMW Missions! Join the staff at noon. Call the office to be added to our reservation. 440-526-8938



April

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 Rick & Heather Dean	1	2 10 Staff Mtg	3 6:30 Brkfst 7 Bible Study	4 9:30 UMW Meeting 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	5 9:30 Mom's Club	6 8:30 Yard Clean Up Day 7 Open Table Strongsville
7 5th Sunday in Lent 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship with baptism 4 Community Chorus Concert	8  <i>April 7 is the last day to order Easter Flowers!</i>	9 10 Staff Mtg 11—11 Dine at Creekside for UMW Missions 7 Church Council Mtg?	10 6:30 Brkfst 7 Bible Study	11 9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	12 <i>Paper Recycling Bonus Week Begins!</i>	13 8 Greater Cleveland Food Bank
14 Palm Sunday 8 Bake Sale 8:45 Worship 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 5 Youth Dinner	15 9:30 Mom's Club Playtime	16 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n' Time 7:30 Trustees	17 6:30 Brkfst 7 Bible Study	18 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir  <i>Paper Recycling Bonus Week Pick Up Day!</i>	19 7:30 Good Friday Tenebrae Service	20
<i>Brecksville Broadview Heights School District Spring Break</i>						
21 Easter Sunday 6:15 Sunrise Service on the Square 8:45 Worship 11:15 Worship	22 <i>Easter Monday—Church Offices Closed</i>	23 10 Staff Mtg 5:30 Getting Ahead 7 Finance	24 6:30 Brkfst 7 Bible Study	25 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	26 9:30 UMW Board Meeting <i>Last day for YSP Flower Orders</i>	27 11 Tim McDonel Memorial Service
28 Festival of God's Creation 8:45 Worship with Baptism 10 Classes 11:15 Worship 6 MSYG/HSYZ* 7 HSYG/MSHZ*	29	30 10 Staff Mtg	Prayer Labyrinth in the Chapel  Enrich your prayer life with the labyrinth. Through Holy Saturday, April 20, 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.



Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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928

Electronic Service Requested



Socialize with us!



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19
TENEBRAE SERVICE
at 7:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21
SUNRISE SERVICE
on Brecksville Square at 6:15 am
EASTER SERVICES
at 8:45 and 11:15 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.



SPECIAL NEEDS ACROSS THE AGES

Go quickly to the city's streets. The busy ones and the side streets, and bring the poor, crippled, blind, and lame...Go to the highways and back alleys and urge people to come in so that my house will be filled.

- Luke 14: 218, 23

BECOMING AN ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE CONGREGATION WHERE ALL BELONG.

People affected by disability desire to attend church, but do at much lower rate because of barriers that exist.

"No amount of smiling at a flight of stairs has ever made it turn into a ramp. Never. Smiling at a television screen isn't going to make closed captions appear for people who are deaf. No amount of standing in the middle of a bookshop and radiating a positive attitude is going to turn all those books into braille. It's just not going to happen." - Writer, comedian and activist, Stella Young.

We all like to think that God's house is a space that is open and welcoming for all. Do we do a good job of thinking about our spaces and programs from the perspective of those who are differently abled? How can we do better?

This was the theme of a day long workshop sponsored by East Ohio CEF: Christians Engaged in Faith Formation, and the Spiritual Formation & Christian Education Committee of the East Ohio Conference on March 14.

After a keynote address, attendees chose from the following workshops:

- Disability Awareness 101: Introduction to disability and disability ministry with hands on experiences with Ryan Wolfe, President of Ability Ministry.
- Awareness to Action: Supporting Individuals With Special Needs in All Environments with Dr. Katie Krammer, Assoc. Professor at Lake Erie College.
- Invisible Disabilities: Not seeing and believing, Chad Bogdewic, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Sharpville, PA involved in disability ministry in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC.
- Autism Basics: communication and Building Success with Jocelyn Geib, PhD, CC/SLP, KidsLink
- Mental Health and the Church, Rev. Dr. Bev Hall, Chair, East Ohio Committee on Disability Concerns.

Our director of Education, Jenny Gee, and our office manager, Melanie Smith, attended the conference and

learned that there are little and big things that churches can do to become more welcoming and inclusive to people of all abilities - - and that few churches do them.

Ministry to those with disability is a real need for people in this community – families often feel isolated. The workshop closed with a video of a family who attend Church of the Resurrection in Solon. They told us about their Be-Attitudes Service, a worship service for people with special needs which the church offers on the second Sunday of every month from September to May at 12:45 pm followed by a social in the Parish Hall. The service has been a real blessing for them, and they have found it a place where they feel accepted and spiritually fed. The mother said, "The service will never go the way you want it to go, but it will go the way God wants it to go."

Some other thoughts and comments that stood out:

- One presenter said "When you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism." Everyone is different.
- Diaper changing stations are great, but there are almost always only for infants. Consider providing a changing area for bigger kids.
- "You can become bitter, or you can become better."

We are looking forward to developing a more active disability ministry at Brecksville UMC. Would you like to get involved? Do you have ideas? Needs? Contact Jenny Gee, education@brecksvilleumc.com or call 440-526-8938 ext. 230.

- Submitted by Melanie Smith



EASTER FLOWERS 2019

Help beautify our Easter Worship Service with flowers! Please order soon, as **no orders can be accepted after Sunday, April 7**. Attach payment to this form (make checks payable to BUMC.) Dedications will be listed in Easter Sunday's bulletin.

___ Tulip (\$8)	___ Daffodil (\$8)	___ Lily (\$8)
___ Azalea (\$12)	___ Hydrangea (\$16)	TOTAL ATTACHED: _____

Given by: _____ Phone: _____

in honor of: _____

in memory of: _____

to the Glory of God. Questions? Call the office! 440-526-8938

Check one: _____ I will take my flowers home after 11:15 worship.
_____ Give my flowers to someone who could not worship with us.

Payment attached	↔	Check # _____	Cash _____
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HANGING BASKETS FOR

Mother's Day

ORDERS DUE SUNDAY APRIL 26

Pre-order your plants to pick up on Saturday, May 11. Additional baskets will be available for purchase on Mother's Day, May 12.

10" Grower's Choice Combo Basket: Sun # _____ or Shade # _____

TOTAL # BASKETS = _____ @ \$20 = _____

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Make checks payable to BUMC. "Plant Sale" in memo line.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____ Check # _____ Cash _____



Thank you for supporting
2019 YSP TRIP
YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT



Easter Flowers and Sensory Sensitivity

Spring flowers are reminders of new life and resurrection, and it's fitting that a long held tradition in Christian churches is to fill our sanctuaries with lilies, daffodils, tulips and azaleas at Eastertime.

But some are sensitive to the fragrance of some of these flowers. To help make our church a more welcoming place for all, we have selected the least fragrant flowers for Easter Sunday (no more hyacinths!) and we remove the stamens from all of our lilies to reduce their smell.

It's a small thing that we can make God's house a more hospitable place for all of God's children!

Return your order forms to the church office:

Brecksville United Methodist Church

65 Public Square

Brecksville, Ohio 44056

440-526-8938