

The Good Word

A newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church. August Issue. Published July 26



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP. DETERMINED SERVICE.

Making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO 44141



Share God's Love

with Habitat and Thrivent's Faith Build

in partnership with  **THRIVENT**



For the Entire Law is summed up in a single command: love your neighbor as yourself. - Galatians 5:14

The Transformation of Roehl Avenue

With our help, two once abandoned houses, built in 1900, are being converted from two family rentals into single family homes - owned by our Habitat families!

Ebony, who works in nursing homes, is studying to become an RN. She has three boys, ages 15, 8 and 1. Phillina works in medical billing and coding and has three boys still at home. Both families have been through financial literacy training, are investing their own sweat equity into the homes, and will receive zero interest loans from Habitat for Humanity to purchase the homes. Learn more at www.clevelandhabitat.org

Brecksville United Methodist church is one of twenty area churches (including Solon, Strongsville and Chagrin Falls UMCs) committed to this year's Faith Build, sponsored by Thrivent. **Join our work team on Saturday, August 10 from 9 am—3 pm.** Contact the office or sign up on Sunday!

PASTOR'S LISTENING Tour

Pastor Heidi has embarked on a "listening tour", a series of gatherings designed to give you a chance to tell your story, and share your hopes and dreams for Brecksville United Methodist Church. The first event was held at the Hastings home, and two more were held at church July 24 and 26. If you weren't able to attend one of these, we hope you'll attend one of the upcoming dates:

- On **Sunday, July 28**, young families will gather at the Brecksville Recreation Center Playground. The Parodas are bringing popsicles!
- **Wednesday, July 31** at the Jaszczak's in Independence.
- **Thursday, August 1** at the home of Mark & Linda Moore in Seven Hills. The Moores are relatively new to our congregation and would love to meet you!
- **Sunday, August 4** at the Kotnik's in Sagamore Hills.
- **Thursday, August 15** at the Miller's in Brecksville.
- **Sunday, August 18** a gathering for youth at the Brachna Home in Sagamore Hills.

Don't see a date that suits you? Want to host a home gathering? Contact the church office! Call 440-526-8938 or e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com



FROM THE PASTOR

SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10 Worship in the Sanctuary
Nursery care available at both services!
Summer Schedule Through 9/1/19

Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Heidi Welch

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

joan@brecksvilleumc.com

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

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Editor, Melanie Smith

office@brecksvilleumc.com

Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send us your news!

"So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female God created them... And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day... And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work God had done in creation."

I love ministry. I love being a pastor and all that comes with it. I love ministry so much that I tend to go all-in and want to do all the things all the time. However, this past year, doing all the things all the time started to catch up with me. I hadn't taken my weekly sabbath like I knew I was "supposed" to, and vacation seemed like an unnecessary interruption of ministry. Subsequently, I was tired, short with my children, and not having fun in ministry like I used to. One of my clergy friends pointed out that even Jesus took breaks from ministry—going out to pray and rest with God frequently. My response was something like, "that's nice for Jesus." And I went on my merry way.

Then I heard a podcast where someone casually asked, "Do you know the first thing God did with humans?" The answer to the question struck me right between the eyes: "After creating humans, the first thing God did with them was rested." God did not go out with the first humans to plant something or build something or strategize about building or planting something. First, God and humans rested.

Woah. It's important to rest. It's MOST important to *rest with God*.

So this past May I took a four-week spiritual renewal leave, and I loved every minute of it. And you know what? Because of it I was able to care for my family better and be a better pastor when I went back to work.

That's my long-winded, pastorly way of saying, "I take sabbath seriously, so that I can seriously care for you—my church family—and help us do what God is calling us to do." Mondays are my sabbath, so I will be out of the office and spending time with God and family (Rus has Mondays off, too!). That means I'll be rested up for the week so I can do the best ministry I can. Here's a look at my ideal week:

Tuesdays I'll be around the office: we have staff meeting at 10am and I'll be around to support the staff in their ministry areas.

Wednesdays I'll be focused on long-term visioning and planning, and working on sermons outside the office, mostly.

Thursdays I'll be around the office for meetings or appointments, and hopefully make some visits in the afternoon.

Friday mornings will be spent in the office and then I'll head off in the afternoons to write (sermons, newsletter articles, and all that jazz).

Continued on next page...



Students and Teachers: Backpacks are your constant companions throughout the school year. Bring them to church for a blessing! We will also give you a backpack button as a reminder that God is with you in your daily life and that your church family is praying for you throughout the year! *Backpacks will be blessed at both the 8:30 and 10 o'clock services.*



Bike Repair Days

Saturdays
August 3 and September 14
9 – 11 am

Bikes! Bikes! And more bikes!

Donations have been pouring in and we are blessed with bikes to repair for people in need. If we all come together, we can get those bikes out to folks who need them ASAP. If you know basic bike repair, great – but we can also teach you, and we need help cleaning and organizing the bikes, too. ***It's all hands on deck!*** If you have a friend who would like to help, please bring them along!



Church Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, August 14
7 pm

What's our plan for fulfilling our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? That's the work of the Church Council and you should be a part of it! Attend the Church Council meeting in the Parlor. *Note to Committee Chairs:* please submit your reports **by August 7** so they can be distributed on the Sunday before the meeting.

office@brecksvilleumc.com

From the Pastor, continued...

Of course, ministry never fits into a 9-5 job—there's always meetings, emergencies, and visits that will happen when they happen. But this gives you a general idea of how I'll spend my time each week. If you'd like to meet with me, Tuesdays & Thursdays are the best days for that. If you need to get ahold of me, Melanie will always know where I am and she can always help you get in contact with me. Contact the church office 440-526-8938. I'm fine with people having my cell phone number, but ask you to be respectful of it and know that if I don't answer right away, leave a voicemail and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. Texting works too! And email!

The more I get to know you all, the more excited I get. We are going to do some awesome things with God! But I know me, and I have to pace myself. Taking my sabbath is one way for me to pace myself and stay connected to the Source. Because like Jesus, we also need time away with God.

When's the last time you took a real sabbath?

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends:

Words cannot adequately convey our sense of appreciation for all you have done for the Steins. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The leave taking celebration was wonderful. We appreciate all of the thought and preparation that went into it. The setting was a blessing, and we were touched by how many folks came out to be with us. Your gifts of time and money were overwhelming, and we were very touched by the book of memories... we treasure all of the good wishes and kind thoughts. We are settling in at Hudson. Still struck by all of the "newness", we are getting our feet back beneath us, and reaching out to new folks with the love of Christ. Our prayers and thoughts are with you as you continue to call in more of the kingdom in our time and place. We will be cheering you on from here. Keep the faith, don't be afraid, and always remember that Jesus is Lord, and that God wins in the end...

We wish you every blessing,
Rev. Clark and Kathy Stein



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

RAHAB MINISTRIES offers concrete solutions to human trafficking by putting Truth and Love into action! UMW Evening Circle is coordinating a drive this month to help meet the needs of the women served by Rahab. If you're moved to help, please bring donations to the pink collection bin in the lobby by August 18. Items requested: Full size bottles of body wash and lotion, paper towels, plastic cutlery and ground regular coffee.

EARS TO YOU The Brecksville United Methodist Women and the UMW Evening Circle request that you save the date of Wednesday, September 4 at 7 pm for a special presentation by Ruth Crane, from Ears to You, a cancer charity in Cleveland, providing a moment of hope and joy by donating beautiful new earrings, hats, headscarves and inspirational books to women, girls, men and boys with any type of cancer, at no cost to the patient.

ASBURY BREMETH RETURNS! Make plans to join the ladies circle on the second Thursday of each month in the Parlor for a morning Bible study with Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education. The first meeting of the season will be Thursday, September 12.

DENTAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS are the focus of this month's donation drive for Brookside! If you're moved to help, bring your donations to the first floor collection bin before August 15.



Zach Brachna continues to collect pull tabs for Nordonia Schools' Knights Caring for Knights! The money raised by recycling the pop tops is used to provide bags of food for kids who might not otherwise have food to eat over the weekend during the school year. You can help! Collect pull tabs from sodas, soup cans, and the like and bring them to the collection jar in The Parlor or to the bin in the coat room! *Thank you!*



Mission to Mars Vacation Bible School was held here July 8—12! 114 children and more than 60 teen and adult volunteers gathered here each day to sing, dance, hear a daily Bible story, make a craft, run a science experiment and play games that echoed the theme of that day's story. Our verse for the week was from Ephesians 3:20, "*Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.*" The powers we focused on were acts of faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness and hope.

The children and volunteers felt a strong sense of the Spirit as the week went on. We are so grateful for whatever role you played this year, whether you were actively involved in teaching or crew leading, if you worked in the kitchen, bandaged scraped knees or captured the events on camera. Perhaps you came and helped decorate the church, or maybe you donated a snack item or simply held us in prayer throughout the week. We felt your love!

Each year we choose a VBS mission focus. This year we raised money to donate to Bat International, an organization devoted to research to combat white nose syndrome, a disease decimating bat populations around the world. We challenged the chil-

dren to take on chores around the house or to do something for a neighbor or grandparent to earn money for the cause. Your heart would be warmed by the stories of their creativity in raising funds. VBS kids attending who are neighbors hosted a lemonade stand, complete with a "bat fact flier" created by one of the children, which was given out

with each purchase. This lemonade stand alone brought in over \$75 toward our goal. A bake sale that included watermelon slices, snicker doodles and brownies netted over \$100. While \$3 was earned by a 5 year old who matched all the socks in the laundry basket. All the kids attending generously gave to reach a goal we set on Monday.

In fact, in the end we raised \$467.57 - surpassing our goal of \$330!

We hope and pray that VBS is more than a week of song and dance and stories about a faith that the kids only observe peripherally. Our prayer is that our week together is just a step along the way to how our faith changes the way we look at each other and the way we include ourselves in acts of generosity. Thank you for generously supporting VBS through the years with the sharing of your time, your talents or your generous giving.

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education



Some of the sixty-plus volunteers from VBS 2019!



We are a Sensory Certified Location

To help ensure that this church is open and welcoming to all people, members of our church staff and volunteers have completed training to improve our ability to assist and accommodate people with sensory needs. **Sensory Bags** containing special fidget toys, noise canceling headphones, weighted lap pads and other resources are available for checkout from an usher or from our welcome table in the lobby. The **KultureCity All-Inclusive App** lists our church as a sensory friendly location and helps folks find us. It also features our social story, which helps acclimate people to our church before they even get here. It's free and can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play!



www.brecksvilleumc.com
Click the "BUMC Online" Tab



ALL YOUTH DINNER HOSTS WANTED

Youth Dinners feed us, body and soul! A cornerstone of our youth program are our youth dinners. All middle and high school students are invited to come together once a month (typically the first Sunday) for a meal and some group fun. We're currently looking for hosts for each of these dinners, October through May. Pastor Heidi and Rus are hosting the first dinner at the parsonage (save the date, kids! Sunday, September 8. Most dinners are held here in Fellowship Hall. You don't even have to cook! Ordering in is a hit, too. Contact Dana for more information. 440-526-8938 ext. 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com.



Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Road - This workshop provides a comprehensive approach to understanding poverty using the lens of economic class and providing concrete tools and strategies for a community to alleviate poverty. Participants will review poverty research, examine a theory of change, and analyze poverty through the prism of the hidden rules of class, resources, family structure, and language. This training normally costs \$99 but is being offered free of charge in the North Coast District to the first 50 participants. The training will run from 9 am—4 pm with an hour break for lunch. Lunch is available at Lakewood UMC for a donation, or participants can visit area restaurants. Upon completion participants will receive a certificate that they have been trained in the Bridges philosophy. Register and hold your space by emailing Joy Parker: jparker@northcoastdistrict.com.

YOUTH NEWS



Youth Get Together with Pastor Heidi

August 18 from 5 – 7 pm at the Brachna's House. Pastor Heidi is going on a listening tour to get to know the people of Brecksville UMC and to hear our ideas about our church. On Sunday, August 18, she wants to talk to YOU! All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend. The Brachnas are providing pizza and drinks. If you would like to bring a side or dessert, that would be great. **Please RSVP before Saturday, August 17** so we'll be sure to have enough pizza!

youth@brecksvilleumc.com or
440-526-8938 ext. 224

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



@bumcyouthmin



@bumcyouthmin



@BrecksvilleumcYouth



Alex's Lemonade Stand

At the time of this printing, with six Sundays to go, we have raised \$711 for pediatric cancer research this summer! We have raised enough to fund 14 hours of research to find a cure. Awesome! We set a lofty goal for ourselves of \$2,000—enough to fund a whole week of research. Can we do it by September 1?



Thank You!

Family Yoga:

Saturday, August 3 from 10—10:45 am



For kids ages 4 and up and their adult family members. All welcome (parents, grandparents, adult siblings, etc.) for movement, breathing practices, interactive games and relaxation. The cost is \$20 for 1 adult/child pair plus \$5 per additional family member. Register today: www.yogasquirrelkids.com

Ministering to School Staff

Teachers have opportunities to affect the lives of the children in our community every day. As the new school year begins, we're letting the Brecksville Broadview Heights School District staff know how much they mean to us by providing hot and iced coffee for their staff convocation day on Tuesday, August 20. The first day of school for students is August 21. Let's keep the students, teachers, and staff in our prayers as this new school year begins.



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

“Thank you to my wonderful church family for the prayers, cards, food and love I have received after my husband, Tim, passed away in March. God has truly blessed me through BUMC!”

- Ruth McDonel

Congratulations to Craig and Pam Czarnota, who welcomed their first grandson, Fredrick, to the world on July 3. Parents Benjamin and Emily are doing great!



Save the Date for the RETURN OF LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, August 13 at noon

We're having a picnic! Bring a dish to share, or just come enjoy some tasty food and company with the church staff! *Everyone* is welcome!

It's FREE if you RSVP!

Altar Flowers Help Beautify Worship

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



Tish Kwiatkowski	1	Jeffrey Mihalich	8	Matthew Johnson	17
Skip Smith	1	Jim Rollins	8	Bob Tschannen	18
Susan Hurst	2	Dave Stoffer	8	Robin Engler	19
Katrina Orr	2	Laina Culley	9	Joan Olszko	19
Chris Davis	3	Betty Monnin	9	Kyle Romance	20
Bennett Eberhardt	3	Valorie Bender	10	Grace Auble	21
Jeff Hastings	3	Jack Hehr	10	Ann Zupanc	22
Gabriel Vastartis	3	Ryan Shijo	10	Megan Juniper	23
Steven Vastartis	3	Beth Dadas	11	Helen Lee	26
Kristi Eberhardt	4	Heather Manocchio	11	Raegan Papp	26
Joan Filips	4	Lori Rusterholtz	11	Bridget Gee	27
Judy Novak	4	Mark Vastartis	12	Bryn Bisco	28
George Smith, Jr.	5	Aleyna Gee	14	Kristin Bisco	29
Lily Jatsek	6	Beverly Gooding	14	Jamie Hocutt	29
Brooke Barnum	7	Kathy Auble	15	Andrew Scott	31
Sally Crist	7	Chuck Gezze	15		
Mary Jane Opatrny	7				



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. People like Rev. Kathy Dickriede, The Noggle Family and the Brachna Family, who all hosted Alex's Lemonade Sundays, providing hospitality AND helping fund research for a cancer cure. That's amazing! Wonderful Emma Engelhardt helps during worship services with such a warm and giving heart. Thank you, Emma, for serving as an acolyte! Kristi Eberhardt brought and served the cake for Pastor Heidi's welcome reception. Thank you, Kristi! That was sweet—literally and figuratively! Joan Olszko may be one of our longest serving volunteers. She has been our Sunday School Registrar since the late 80s! What a gift she is! The United Methodist Women put a lot of time and talent into Grandma's Pie Stand at Brecksville Home Days, and it really shows! We're thankful for your labor of love. You spread joy throughout the community! We lift up a prayer of thanks for each of you named here, and all of you named in our hearts!

August 2019

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Ruth Herman & Bev Gooding	Church Closer Schedule: Week of Aug. 1– Hudacek Aug. 4–Brown Aug. 11–Holmok Aug. 18–Holmes Aug. 25–Gezze			1  Mowing Team: Bloch & Campbell Home Gathering: Moore's	2 9:30 Mom's Club Meets Here	3 Bread Ministry: Kotnik 10 Family Yoga
4 Communion 8:30 Worship Alex's Lemonade (ALS) Louttits 10 Worship Home gathering	5 Pastor's Sabbath Day	6 10 Staff Mtg 7 Music & Worship Board	7 Church Council Reports Due!	8  Mowing Team: Lundholm & Herzing	9	10 Bread Ministry: Miller 9–3 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, Roehl Ave.
11 8:30 Worship ALS, Host Needed 10 Worship 3 Concert Here	12 Pastor's Sabbath Day	13 10 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch Bunch	14 Mowing Team: Auble & Spencer 7 Church Council Meeting	15  Staff Long Range Planning Mtg Home Gathering: Miller's	16 UMW Food Delivery to Brookside 	17 Bread Ministry: Gee
18 Blessing of the Backpacks 8:30 Worship ALS Host Needed 10 Worship 4 Open Table 4 Pastor Heidi gathers w/ youth	19 Pastor's Sabbath Day	20 7 BUMC serves Coffee for School Staff 10 Staff Mtg 7:30 Trustees	21 First Day of School, BBH 	22  Mowing Team: Brown & Sendrey	23	24 Bread Ministry: Brachna 9–4 Bridges Out of Poverty Training, Lakewood
25 8:30 Worship ALS Host Needed 10 Worship	26 Pastor's Sabbath Day	27 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	28	29  Mowing Team: Gee & Gee 9–3 Faith Build: Staff Work Day	30 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	31 Bread Ministry: TBD



Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Socialize with us!

SAVE THE DATE

**09
08
19**

PARTY ON THE SQUARE

FALL KICK OFF SUNDAY!

WORSHIP AT 10 AM. FUN ON THE SQUARE AT 11!

ROCKET CAR, KONA ICE, MUSIC, POTLUCK PICNIC,
CHURCH FAMILY PHOTO AND MORE.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

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.



July 8, 2019

East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network
c/o Joy Parker
1415 Grant Street
Akron, Ohio 44301

Brecksville United Methodist Church
c/o Rev. Heidi Welch
65 Public Square
Independence, Ohio 44141

Dear Rev. Welch & Friends at BUMC:

On behalf of East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, please accept my deepest thanks for your generous Easter gift to RMN. As you are well aware, this is a challenging and complex time in our life together as a United Methodist Church. Here in East Ohio, RMN is working to bring resources to local congregations and facilitate long overdue conversations around creating a Church that is safe and welcomes all of God's children without exception. We are also undertaking educational initiatives to ensure that young people (in particular) are aware that congregations like yours are a safe and welcoming space within a denomination that still struggles to fully affirm the lives of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We are so grateful for churches like Brecksville UMC whose witness is a source of considerable hope to many and who have chosen to take a public stand rather than remaining silent. You are a beacon of light in a landscape that is, at times, cloudy and ominous for LGBT persons.

Thank you for your financial gift, and thank you for all that you do to bring a spirit of hope and grace to people in Brecksville and beyond. Please do not hesitate to reach out to RMN and to me personally, if there is any way we can be a partner to you in your work for greater affirmation of—and equality for—the LGBTQIA+ community.



Peace,

Joy Parker
Chair, East Ohio RMN
Eclat284@gmail.com
216.702.7730

Chamber Music Concert
by members of the
Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 3:00 PM
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville

J.S. Bach: Orchestral Suite #2
Alicia Gallucci, flute

Vivaldi: Concerto for 2 Violins
Andréa Belding Elson and
Renee Wagner, violin

J.S. Bach: Concerto for Oboe and Violin
Vicki Wert, oboe
Andréa Belding Elson, violin

The Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra is a volunteer orchestra; Victor Liva, Music Director. The orchestra will begin its 82nd season in the fall of 2019, and will perform in venues across Northeast Ohio.



THRIVENT® Faith Build 2 Houses. Community-Wide Impact.



3326 Roehl Avenue

Phillina- is a single mom of 7 children. Three of the kiddos still live with mom- Edward (16), Anya (12) and Derwin (9). Phillina works in medical billing and coding.

Anya help choose the home. She liked it because of the sun porch. She thought she could read there. Derwin loves the magic steps behind the house...stairs that go to St. Rocco's.



3326 Roehl Avenue, Built 1900
1,467 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms 2 baths



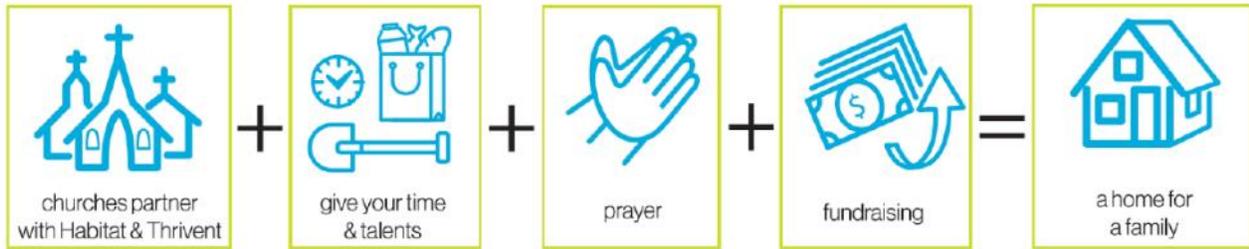
3322 Roehl Avenue

Ebony- is a single mom of three boys. Jacob (15), Jamirion (8) and Lavell (1). She works in a nursing homes and is studying to be a RN.

Ebony wanted to achieve 3 goals be the time she was 40. She wanted to go to get married, earn a degree and buy a home. She is so excited to be working on the last goal. She wants to be an example to her sons.



3322 Roehl Avenue, Built 1900
1,648 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms 1.5 baths



Faith Partners

Brecksville United Methodist Church
 Church of St. Dominic
 Church of the Gesu
 Church of the Holy Angels
 Congregation of St. Joseph
 Fairmount Presbyterian Church
 Lord of Life Lutheran Church
 Mount Zion of Oakwood Village
 Old Stone Church
 Plymouth Church United Church of Christ
 Solon United Methodist Church
 St. Angela Merici Church

St. Basil the Great
 St John Neumann Catholic Church
 St. Joseph Catholic Church
 St. Mark Catholic Church, West Park
 St. Mary Catholic Church of Berea
 St. Mary of the Falls
 St. Paul's Episcopal
 St. Rocco Church
 Strongsville United Methodist Church
 The Church of the Covenant
 The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls
 And, Thrivent Financial



Pictured left: Bryn Watkins learns the art of cement. Above: A sign listing all twenty faith partners hangs on 3322 Roehl Avenue.