The Good-Word

A newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church. September Issue. Published August 22



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP. DETERMINED SERVICE.

Making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world
65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO 44141





IT'S A HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8!

As the seasons change, we stop and gather and enjoy a time of community. Guests are welcome and expected! (Pssst! It's also Grandparents' Day! Bring your grandkids—or your nana and papa!)

We will have ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 10 am. Gather with your church family in worship!

Followed by a Potluck party on Brecksville Square at 11 am. Fellowship Committee is providing sloppy joes & Coney dogs, plates & napkins and the like. Bring a dish to share!

- Be a part of our annual Church Family photo.
- Take a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car (from 11:30 am 1 pm).
- Bounce House for Kids, Kona Ice truck
 and other surprises!
- Enjoy music by *Hip To That* a Cleveland Jazz Quartet playing hits from the Great American Songbook and hits through the decades!



September 1
8:30 Worship on the Lawn
10 Worship in the Sanctuary
September 9
10 One Worship Service
September 15—Schedule Changes
8:45 Worship with Live Band
11:15 Worship w/ Traditional Hymns

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

FROM THE PASTOR

I've been at Brecksville UMC for a little over a month and a half. In that time, I've gotten to know a lot of people during nine Home Gatherings. I'm thankful so many of you were willing to authentically share with me your hopes and concerns for Brecksville UMC. I've been reading through your answer papers and appreciate all your feedback! Here's a little recap of what I learned...

Brecksville UMC Strengths:

The people: supportive church family & wonderful staff!

The building and its central location

The music program

The multitude of mission and community outreach opportunities

A welcoming atmosphere

Brecksville UMC Weaknesses:

Lack of young people/families

Our core group of volunteers is small (20% of the people doing 80% of the work)

Lack of fellowship opportunities

Lack of hospitality

The building is old/expensive, land-locked, and main floor layout needs reworking

As you can see, some items/areas are on both lists, and it makes sense. Our building and its location are huge assets (we have no mortgage!) but it's also older and needs continual updating. As a church, we are welcoming, but at the same time need to work on our hospitality. The people who are here are super fantastic, but overall we have an older population.

A few things that were talked about at every Home Gathering...

Concern about the uncertainty of The United Methodist Church.

Lack of young people/families

Worship: styles, times, etc.—you name it, we talked about it!

Creating a more welcoming & inclusive church community.

So. Wanna know what I see in all of this? A vision. A focus. I've had the unique opportunity over the past month and a half to be an outsider looking in, learning and observing. So, from that viewpoint, I'm going to tell you what I see: I see Brecksville United Methodist Church continuing to become an intentionally inclusive community of believers that is reaching new people with the love of Christ. That is who you already are, but of course there's always work to be done.

Now. That statement is just a starting point. There are some seriously "loaded" words that will take some fleshing out ("What does it mean to be inclusive?" "Why say 'reaching' rather than 'attracting?"). That's where you come in. I'm not just going to tell you what our vision is. That would be silly. It needs to come from you. You need to own it.

In the weeks to come there will be many opportunities to share thoughts and

Continues on next page...

discuss where we see God leading BUMC in the future. The first will be our "650 Prayer Gathering" on 9/5 @ 6:45 pm. We will share how we each heard God speaking through the 650 prayer. At the September Church Council meeting (date TBA) we will dig into the statement above and see where God takes us. Then we'll see what we need from there.

One thing I know, a focus on younger adults is needed. We already have younger people—we just need to gather them. That's something I want to work on, starting with my "Not Your Mother's Sunday School."

At every Home Gathering I asked the same question: "Are you willing to change in order to make space for new (younger, more diverse) people?" The answer to this question will be our greatest obstacle or our greatest asset. Over and over again I got a variation on the same answer: "Yes... well, we better be, because what we're doing isn't working!" This is our greatest asset—realizing that while we are the on-the-ground workers, this is God's church, and we must be open to where God is leading us. Not for our own sake or for the sake of this church, but for the sake of God and God's kin-dom.

It has been a joy to get to know so many of you in such a short amount of time. And guys... I have to tell you. I am SO. EXCITED. To the point that I get chills even thinking about it. If we continue to listen to where God is leading, God has some pretty amazing things in store for us—possibilities we haven't even imagined yet!



MAKE A BLANKET/GIVE A BLANKET

The Missions & Outreach Committee looked around and saw a need. They wanted to bring the whole church together to complete a project, and they knew that many of our neighbors do not have blankets to keep them warm this winter. *Make a Blanket/ Donate a Gently Used Blanket* is a project conceived to meet these needs!

On **Sunday, September 15, 2019** we'll have an all church event between services in Fellowship Hall. Our goal? Create 100 no-sew fleece blankets (by tying the fringe on all four sides). These blankets will be donated to City Mission in Cleveland. This is a mission activity suitable for all ages.

To prepare for the event, the Missions & Outreach Committee is busy cutting fabric to size. Help may still be needed. Call the church office to learn when you can pitch in!

Starting September 8 (through September 15) we will be collecting clean, gently used blankets of any kind (afghans, lap blankets, comforters, baby blankets, etc.) These donations will help those served by Nehemiah Mission, a United Methodist Mission in Cleveland.

We hope you'll be part of this wonderful mission and that you'll tell your friends about it, too!



Volunteer with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank Saturday, September 14

Throughout Northeast Ohio, one in six people is food insecure – meaning they may not know where their next meal will come from. The Greater

Cleveland Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in Northeast Ohio having provided more than 57 million meals in 2018 to hungry people in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Ashland and Richland counties.

The Food Bank operates a community food distribution center, providing food and other critical grocery products annually to nearly 1,000 local food pantries, hot meal programs, shelters, mobile pantries, programs for the elderly and other nonprofit agencies.

We can help! Sign up on Sunday or contact the church office for details!



Bike Fix-it Day

Saturday, 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!

650 PRAYER RESPONSE

Thursday, September 5.

We have been asking God for guidance for our church. Where do you feel the Spirit leading? Let's talk about it! Gather in The Parlor at 6:45 pm.

So often, God, I limit you with my doubts and insecurities. I don't trust in you, but focus on what I want. I'm sorry, Lord. Breakthrough into my life and into your church. Help me see where your Spirit is leading. Push me beyond my comfort zones. Your power and love surpasses all understanding. Assure me that through them, the possibilities are endless. Give me faith and courage to follow you to the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet. Amen.



- 1. Experience a sense of belonging.
- 2. Build lasting relationships.
- 3. Serve through music ministry you'll be a worship leader!
- 4. You'll have an excuse to start singing Christmas music in October.
- 5. Singing relieves stress after a long week.
- 6. You don't need to know how to read music!!!
- 7. Build confidence.
- 8. Choir robes hide coffee stains.
- 9. Weekly back rubs.
- 10. No expensive instrument required you already own yours!

Our choir is an extremely welcoming & accepting group, and we would love the opportunity to get to work with you. Thursday nights have become a way for our choir to express ourselves musically, personally, and spiritually. **Rehearsals begin September 12.** (6:15 Bells/7:30 Choir)

Want to learn more? Contact Music Director, Malik Khalfani. 440-526-8938 ext. 231 or music@brecksvilleumc.com.

Third Grade Bibles

September 22 at 8:45- cake reception to follow

Studying Scripture is one of the most important ways we learn about God. Brecksville United Methodist Church presents an inscribed Bible to each third grade student as a statement of



their growing faith development and as recognition of their being old enough to dig into these stories on their own. This year, Third Grade Bible presentation will take place Sunday, September 22 at the 8:45 service, followed by a cake and punch reception after the service at 10:00. We will have a delayed start to Sunday school that morning.

It is our prayer that this Bible will help these children come to know and understand the remarkable nature of Jesus and help them deepen their relationship with God through Christ. If your child or grandchild is in third grade and would like to receive his or her Bible, contact Jenny Gee at education@brecksvilleumc.com or 440.526.8938

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ESSENTIAL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Grow in your journey of faith.

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10 AM

New session begins September 22

—CHILDREN and YOUTH—

For kids from pre-school on up. Teachers are trained and background checked, love children, provide spiritual nurture and serve as faith journey companions.

Preschool through Sixth grade

Dig a little deeper into your Bibles and into the messages of Jesus. At Brecksville UMC we strive to take our Sunday morning lessons and keep them at the center of our lives the rest of the week. Join your friends to see how to live and love a little better.

7th & 9th Grade Confirmation Journey

Students, helped by teachers, mentors and parents will unpack Sunday school lessons in a new way. We are not afraid of tough faith questions at Brecksville UMC. In fact, we recognize that it is by asking questions that we grow in our faith and begin to claim it as our own. Dana and Jenny will meet with 8th graders and a parent individually. Give us a call to set up your time.

High School

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to join us in the Youth Room (406) for a class discussing the themes and scriptures from the morning's sermon. Dive deeper into the Word with active discussion, devotional time, and fun activities. We will leave each class session with a "challenge" for the week ahead and ways to put what we have learned into action. Be encouraged, be inspired, be present!

---CLASSES FOR ADULTS---

Five Means of Grace:

Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way

Learn how to identify and affirm the outward signs, words, and actions of God's invisible divine grace. Recognizing these signs help us to deepen our relationship with God and make our faith more complete. Five means of grace help us as communities of faith to pray more deeply and live more missionally as followers of Jesus Christ. Jenny Gee guides us on the journey!

Not Your Mother's Sunday School

Join Pastor Heidi for a relaxed, conversation based study about ways the Bible intersects with daily life. This class is intended for our younger adults (<40) to gather together.

Are you feeling a call to lead an adult class?

We would love to offer more adult discipleship classes, but need more leaders. Is there a book, a topic, a question or a special interest you can share to help illuminate our walk with Jesus? Would you like to see a small group for people of similar interests or demographic? Want to lead but need some help? Talk to Pastor Heidi or Jenny. We will get you started!

Nursery Care Available on Sunday Mornings! Our Crib and Toddler Room provides a safe, warm, and comfortable environment for children ranging from newborn to five years old. Our Nursery is staffed with two reliable, responsible, background checked caregivers who have been through the Methodist Church's child protection training, *Safe Sanctuaries.* We have lots of toys for the kids to play with as well as books to read and pages to color. You can bring your own diapers, wipes, bottle/sippy cup or anything else your child may need to be comfortable while in our care.

BRECKSVILLE UMC YOUTH SEPT 2019 PLANNING CALENDAR



September

\$.	М	Т	W	Т	F	9
1						
8						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 29	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

YOUTH GROUP!

Youth Group Returns Sunday, Sept 22 from 6-8 pm We can't wait to get back on your weekly

back on your weekly schedule! Come to the youth room Sunday evenings for a time of devotions, games, and checking in with one another. Middle school starts at 6 pm and high school starts at 7 pm. Our Homework Zone will be available with WiFi, snacks, and a relaxing atmosphere. Start your week on a positive note and spend your Sunday evenings with us!

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS

All Youth Dinner

September 8 from 5-7 pm

Join us at Pastor Heidi's place for a fun kick-off to the school year and some delicious food. Middle and high school students are invited to come to the parsonage for a good meal and some fun games. Friends are always welcome! Need directions or a ride? Email Dana (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) for all the info! RSVP before September 6!

Grand Slam at Progressive Field

September 21 from 2 - 11 pm \$25

Need an alternative to Homecoming or just love the Tribe? We will be cheering on the home team with other youth groups in the area at Progressive Field! The night includes pre-game programming with a speaker and players, walking on the field before the game, dollar dog night, and fireworks! It's going to be a great time, you won't want to miss. Middle and high school students are welcome to join, RSVP by September 8!

FALL SAVE THE DATES!

October 6—All Youth Dinner

November 2—Energize Overnight

November 3—All Youth Dinner

November 24—Hanging of the Greens

December 1—Christmas Parade



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.

EVENING CIRCLE meets September, October, November, January, March and May. Join us for fellowship and service projects, such as Ears to You, RAHAB, our confirmands, our college students, USO, meals for our members in need of TLC and a mission project to be determined. We generally meet the first Wednesday of the month. Meeting details will be shared in future Blasts, bulletins and *The Good Word*. All are welcome.

ASBURY BREMETH RETURNS Thursday, September 12. We will start the year with John Ortberg's *I'd Like You More if You Were More Like Me* which asks: How can I get closer to God and to other people? This study offers help in overcoming one of the biggest obstacles: being concerned with the fact that we're so different. Different from God and different from each other. We will see that connectedness is not based on similarity, but on shared experiences. Invite your friend, neighbor or cousin to join us on Thursday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. *Asbury Bremeth is a morning Bible study with Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education 2nd Thursday of each month in the Parlor*.

BROOKSIDE DRIVE. This month, we're collecting deodorant, lotion, shaving cream and razors for those served by Brookside Center in Cleveland. These are all essential items which cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Bring donations to the first floor bin by September 19



Help support the ministry of the Evening Circle by supporting their bake sale on September 29. Proceeds from the sale will buy Bibles for the residents of Rahab House. If you have

questions or would like to become involved with the good work done by the women of the Evening Circle, call Lynn Hobzek at 440-526-6037 or email kezboh@aol.com.



General Conference Update From the Pastor

Many of our church family were disheartened by the passing of the Traditional Plan and its restrictions on welcoming our LGBTQ siblings. In a separate ruling, local churches wishing to leave the denomination were given an exit strategy, the "Gracious Exit" plan... if certain financial requirements are met. In May, our Church Council directed our Finance co-chairs to approach the East Ohio Conference about our potential financial obligation IF we choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. This is information gathering—at this time, we have no intention of disaffiliating from The UMC. The Conference is researching our request and have assured us they'll keep us updated as things move forward.

I, and other church leaders, have been keeping up to date with legislation being proposed for the 2020 General Conference in May. Several plans have been put forth from various groups, with all petitions due by September 18. The only thing that's certain is that the 2019 Special Session was not the last word on the future of The United Methodist Church.

No matter what happens with the greater Church, what we do here at Brecksville UMC will not change. We will continue to love people unconditionally in the name of Jesus Christ, creating a sanctuary for all God's children and serving all God's children. The "Church" is not humanity's idea, but God's; and we can't think so much of ourselves to think we can ruin something God created and ordained. The Church will always be here and Jesus will always be working in the world... it might just look a little different than it does now. Alright... enough of me being "preachy."

I ask for your prayers at the end of September (25-27) as I gather with other UMC leaders at the Leadership Institute in Leawood, Kansas at The Church of the Resurrection, a gathering "aimed at helping United Methodist leaders navigate and lead through the next steps for the denomination." Remain faithful... God's power is at work within us! - Pastor Heidi



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

To my church family,

Thank you all for selecting me to receive the music program scholarship. I was honored to have been selected to receive the scholarship, and I know that it will be very useful during college. I am so thankful to have grown up with all of you and for being such kind, supportive, and accepting people. I will miss you all very much next year! - Megan Loutit



Tuesday, September 10 at Noon in Fellowship Hall

Lunch Bunch is an opportunity to spend time together in informal community. Come spend your lunch hour with the church staff!

It's FREE if you RSVP!

This month's theme:

TACO TUESDAY

Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study

Begins Wednesday, September 11 at 7 pm

Join Pastor Heidi in the Parlor as we study the book of James. **Childcare Available!**



Greg Eberhardt	1	Tonya Boldt	10	Fred Priest	20
Alan Jones	1	Mona Carlisle	10	Jon Wise	20
Mary Kaminski	1	Jackie Daugherty	10	Audrey Fowler	21
Elizabeth Mathewson	1	Travis Papesh	10	Gianna Hricko	23
David Hurder	2	Matthew Robusto	10	Emma Sak	23
Ann Rittman	3	Jinho Lee	11	Russ Dieringer	24
Luke Dorman	4	Madeline Hamilton	12	Anne Rosenthal	24
Marilyn Huber	4	Abigail Jaite	12	Brett Hubert	26
Tim Miller	4	Leslie Phillips	12	Owen Paroda	26
Harry Wilson	5	Ruth Georgevich	13	Austin Pribble	26
Dana Schwendeman	6	Giovanna Figer	14	Jeff Schillo	26
Mariella Siemer	6	Doug Huth	14	Kathy Holmes	27
Matt Georgevich	7	Claire Hayes	16	Annie Madaus	27
Quinn Slifcak	8	Kathy Bartholomew	17	Jeannie McBride	27
Megan Burns	9	Eleri Watkins	17	Mary Jane Matts Slifcak	28
Alvin Hahn	9	Charles Wilson	18	Matt Harper	29
Joe Hurst	9	Emily Vastartis	19	Amy Magee	29
Jennifer Mathewson	9	Becky Gezze	20	Kaiya Crouch	30
Ellie Ritterbusch	9	Claire Kenney	20	Ella Davis	30
Sandy Whitton	9	James Patrick	20	Craig Kotnik	30
Juliay Willitton	,	James Faction	20	Cruig Rottiik	50



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings recently, prayers of thanks were lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Joanie Olszko, our Sunday School Registrar, who has served in that capacity for over three decades. That's remarkable! Bob Lundholm, church caretaker extraordi-

naire—he's a Trustee, a church closer, and on the mowing team. Bob knows this church building inside and out. The Schneider family, who hosted Alex's Lemonade Stand, and even re-arranged their day to stay through second service. Kim Meyer and his grandson, Davin, who removed several trees from the church grounds—in July. That was some hard and hot work. Thank you for your efforts! Kim also mulched the flower beds along the north side of the building. Craig Kotnik has provided beautiful musical accompaniment on his guitar for the Outdoor Worship Service all summer long. Thank you for enhancing the worship experience, Craig! We're thankful for each of you, named and unnamed, and all of the ways that you share God's love with the world!

BRECKSVITLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

BRECKSVITTED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1 Communion Sunday Final Summer Worship 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary - Baptism of Emmalynn Sparks	2 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	3 10 Staff Meeting 6:45 Welcome Committee Meeting	4 Horizon's Pre-School First Day 6:30 a Breakfast 7 Evening Circle and UMW Present, Ears to You	5 6:50 Prayer Response Gathering	6	7 10 Joyce Lynch Memorial Ser- vice	
8 Fall Kick Off! 10 ONE SERVICE 11 Potluck Picnic on the Square 5 Youth Dinner at the Parsonage 6 Brecksville Concert on the Square: Malt Shoppe Memories	9 Brecksville Broadview Heights Community Chorus Rehearsals here every Monday, starting tonight!	10 10 Staff Meeting 12 Second Tuesday Lunch Bunch	11 6:30 a Breakfast 7 Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study Begins!	12 10 Asbury Bremeth 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	13	14 9—11 Bike Fix-It Day Greater Cleveland Food Bank Volunteers	
15 Worship Times Change! 8:45 Worship with Live Band 10 All Church Blanket Project 11:15 Worship with Hymns	Monday is the Pastor's Sabbath Day	17 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Trustees	18 6:30 a Breakfast 7 Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study	19 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir	20 Brookside Donations Delivered: Personal Hygiene Products	21 2 Youth Event: Grand Slam with the CLE Indians 7 Astralis Concert Here!	
	Recycling Bonu	s Week! Bring your pa	per to the bin!				
22 3rd Grade Bibles 8:45 Worship with Live Band 10 Sunday School for All Ages 11:15 Worship with Hymns 6—8 Youth Group	23	24 10 Staff Meeting	25 6:30 a Breakfast Registration Deadline for Lay Servant Training held here	6:15 Bells 6:30 Kiwanis Day of Service—Bike Repair, FH 7:30 Choir	27 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	28	
			Pastor Heidi at I	.eadership Institute	, Church of the R	esurrection, KS	
29 Bakin' For Bibles Bake Sale 8:45 Worship with Live Band	30	Communion of ward	Church Closer Schedule Week of September 1—Lundholm September 8—Hudacek				

10 Classes for all ages 11:15 Worship with Hymns 6—8 Youth Group



Rick & Heather Dean

September 15—Brown September 22—Holmok September 29—Holmes



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Socialize with us!

LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES TRAINING

Friday, October 4 from 6 - 8:30 pm AND Saturday, October 5 from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

This leadership development program in the United Methodist Church is focused on equipping and empowering laypersons who are responding to the call of God to serve in mission and ministry. Have you heard the call?

This two-day training event for those starting out and those are continuing their work as a Lay Servants. The training will take place here at Brecksville UMC!

Registrants are required to attend both days.

The Basic Course, Lay Servant Ministries is for those new to Lay Servant Training and those who haven't taken a course in 3 years. The Advanced Course, *Called to Preach*, is for those who have taken a Basic Course in the last 3 years and are active Lay Servants.

Cost is \$25 which includes meals and supplementary materials. **Registration deadline is September 25.**

Please contact the church for a registration link and additional details!



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.

Brecksville UMC & Independence UMC Astralis Chamber Ensemble Reflections







Saturday, September 21, 2019

7 P.M. | Free Admission 65 Public Square Brecksville, OH

Angela Massey (flute), Kris Marshall (trumpet), & Alexis Colner (harp) present works for the entire trio with the beautiful Ibert "Deux Interludes," contemplative "Mountain Winds" by Mauldin, and works to feature each performer by Appledorn, Cras, and Debussy's beloved "Arabesque No. 1."

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

Final Summer Worship This Year 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary

SEPTEMBER 8

FALL KICK OFF SUNDAY

One Worship Service at 10:00

Party on the Square at 11:00

SEPTEMBER 15

Regular Worship Schedule Returns
8:45 Worship with Live Band
10 All Church Mission: Blanket Project
11:15 Worship with Traditional Hymns

SEPTEMBER 22

Third Grade Bible Sunday
8:45 Worship with Live Band
10 Sunday School Begins for All Ages
11:15 Worship with Traditional Hymns

SEPTEMBER 29

Bakin' for Bibles. 5th Sunday Music 8:45 Worship with Live Band 10 Sunday School for All Ages 11:15 Worship with Traditional Hymns