

The Good Word

A newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church. January 2020

The Gospel According To Mr. Rogers

Join us for worship in January & February as we explore *The Gospel According to Mr. Rogers!* Fred Rogers was an ordained Presbyterian minister and children's television personality. He wonderfully integrated his Christian beliefs into his life and work so that through him, others could see the gospel come to life. We'll take a look at Christian topics and themes contained in his show, such as sacred worth, forgiveness, the Body of Christ, and much more! It's always a beautiful day in the neighborhood when we gather together for worship!



Pancakes are served!

This church thrives because of all the way you serve... do you pick up Panera on a Saturday morning? Have you ever fixed a bike? Taught a child? Mowed the lawn? Locked up the building safe and secure at the end of the day? Perhaps you are more the kitchen type-- bakin' for Bibles, or making soup for our veterans or shut-ins... maybe you serve on a committee or offer your time to Habitat, the Food Bank or Pearl Road dinners, just to name a few. Do you usher or greet or shake hands in the parking lot? Sing in the choir, acolyte, liturgize, run the PowerPoint or play an instrument or sing with the Praise Team on a Sunday? Maybe you hold this special place in your personal prayers. Regardless of how you serve, we want to say thank you! Plan to join us on **Sunday, January 5 at 10** for a fantastic pancake breakfast! It is a small way we try to say thank you for all you do!



OPEN DOORS. HONEST WORSHIP. DETERMINED SERVICE.

Making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world

65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE, OHIO 44141





Sunday Mornings are Special Here!
8:45 Worship with Live Band
11:15 Worship w/ Traditional Hymns
10:00 Classes for All Ages

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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'm going to run a half-marathon in April.

There. I wrote it. You read it. And now I have to do it!

Ever since I preached about "running the race that's set before us," and used the analogy of Cross Country, I've asked myself: "Self, why don't you run anymore?" At first I got answers like, "Because I hate running!" and "Because I'm not built for running so I look funny!" Both are true, but they're more excuses than anything. Then I reflected back on a day last spring when I was in a really rotten mood and went out for a walk. The walk turned into a run and when I got home, I was much happier and felt stronger and more "myself" than I had in a long time.

As I dug a little deeper into why I don't run, I realized the answers were, "Because running is mentally hard." and "I was never really good at running and I don't like not being good at things." Then I told myself, "Self, you can do hard things. Just because something is hard doesn't mean you quit. And just because you're not good at something doesn't mean you quit, either. You need to learn to be okay with not being perfect at something."

Church, we can do hard things. This year is going to bring challenges—probably not any more than in years past, but maybe different challenges. But we can do hard things. As a church, we will focus on our vision in 2020 (insert dad-joke here), and that will require us to take an honest look at who we are, what we do well, and what we don't do so well. And that's going to be hard. *But we can do hard things.*

As a result of our vision, I'm confident we are going to step out of our comfort zone and try new things, serving where God has called us to serve. And we will probably not be perfect at those new things (and we may look a little funny, too). But that's okay. What matters is not whether we are perfect at something, but whether we're trying our best at whatever God has called us to. And I am certain we will try our best, learning and growing as we go.

In 2020, we are going to do hard things and we are going to grow into the church God has called us to be in this time and in this place. We won't be perfect, but we will be authentic and open to the Spirit, and it is going to be *amazing! Let us go and do hard things together so that this world may know the love, hope, peace, and joy that is found in the Christ Child!*

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.—Hebrews 12:1-2

PS - Want to hear that sermon? Check out our website or search "Brecksville UMC" on your favorite Podcast app!

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

A WORSHIP SERVICE PROTESTING THE
HARM OF THE TRADITIONAL PLAN

Open Table

SUNDAY • JANUARY 5 AT 4 PM

Resisting Harm

As United Methodists, it is part of our baptismal covenant to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. When oppression presents itself from within or outside our Church, we have a God-given responsibility to respond with peaceful resistance.

There are many within our church who believe that the Traditional Plan, passed at a special session of General Conference last spring, is a form of oppression. By denying our LGBTQ siblings full inclusion in the life of the church, it perpetuates continual harm. The Traditional Plan affirms the language in the UM Book of Discipline that says homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, makes marrying homosexual couples a chargeable offense, and does not allow those in the LGBTQ community to be ordained.

This Plan will go into effect on January 1, 2020, and as an act of peaceful resistance, churches and individuals around the denomination are participating in a peaceful acts of resistance on Sunday, January 5. At Brecksville UMC, individuals are invited to wear rainbow clothing to worship that day and there will be rainbow ribbon pins available to wear as well. There are t-shirts available for purchase online. One says "A Good General Rule: Do No Harm" and the other is printed with part of The UMC baptismal covenant. (Find the links on our Facebook Page @Brecksvilleumc.com)

On January 5 at 4 pm we will host the Open Table worship service, where individuals from around our Conference who are in the Reconciling Community gather for worship and to celebrate Holy Communion together. All are invited!

At Brecksville UMC, we strive to make a place for ALL people to encounter the love and hope of Jesus Christ. You are invited to participate in these peaceful acts of resistance or not, as the Spirit leads you. No matter what, you will be welcome here and we will worship Christ together!

A Note from the Committee on Inclusion

Why the rainbow?

Since the days of Noah, the rainbow has been a sign of God's promise to God's people. Genesis 9:16 tells us this, "Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." The rainbow offers a sign of hope after many days of hopelessness. It is in this way that we use the rainbow today, to symbolize hope in a world that is still in desperate need of it. You may notice in 2020 that our church will be using the rainbow as a symbol of our commitment to the inclusion of all people, or rather "living creatures of every kind on the earth." As a reconciling congregation, we have taken a stand to invite everyone to the table of faith. We offer a seat for conversation, discussion, knowledge, and understanding. The rainbow shows the wide spectrum of color available in Creation and represents the similarly wide spectrum of people that God has created. We celebrate the worth and dignity of all people across this spectrum and appreciate the beauty of diversity. Our use of the rainbow is to have an outward sign to our community that this is a place where we are committed to not causing more harm to the marginalized and that we aim to heal harm caused as well. We open our doors to welcome everyone, no matter age, gender, race, income level, or sexual orientation, into our church community and include them in worship, mission, and study to be able to experience God's love as it should be, for all. May the rainbow continue to be a sign of promise and hope to those who seek it and may we join together to pursue a more inclusive church.



The Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation



The mission statement for the United Methodist Church is *to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world...* but what does that look like as we try to be a vital part of our community? This class will explore the practices of Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission & Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

Once our mission becomes practical and personal, it becomes memorable and achievable. Bob Snyderwine will lead us in our exploration of the many ways Brecksville UMC can impact the communities that surround our church. In these five weeks, we will discuss the ways we can reach out to our neighbors and to each other to experience God through authentic relationships, to find a place where it's safe to explore our faith, and to be part of a community where we can make a difference through service and generosity.

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace



In a world filled with doubt, despair and darkness we long for a chance to have faith, hope and light. This is what the Prayer of St Francis of Assisi offers us. The words of the prayer boldly but gently challenge us to resist the forces negativity and

evil with the spirit of goodwill and generosity.

Join Kendall Lancaster to read and discuss the beautiful little Kent Nerburn book titled *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*. This easy-read book is filled with touching and inspiring stories that reveal how each of us can make a real difference for good in the world.



HANDING OFF THE REIGNS At the UMW Christmas Luncheon on December 4, we honored Ruth Herman for her 10 years of service as our UMW President. Ruth has given tirelessly of her time, leading the charge in our mission work, hosting our meetings, managing “Grandma’s Pies” at Brecksville Home Days, and organizing our Thanksgiving Pie baking—among many other things. Thank you for all the ways you have served others in the past decade, Ruth! In January, Kathy Sopka will begin her tenure as UMW President. Welcome, Kathy!

COOKIES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS. We will be collecting cookies for the USO lounge at Cleveland Hopkins airport. If you would like to help with this act of hospitality, please pack your cookies six to a bag and place them in the freezer in the church kitchen. They will be picked up on February 13 at 11:30. Can we surpass our contribution of 1000 cookies last year?

EVENING CIRCLE COOKIE BAKE. Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm. We’re firing up the ovens for an evening of baking! Bring your pre-mixed cookie dough and enjoy an evening of togetherness as we prepare cookies for or traveling service members. **WE’RE ALSO COLLECTING** the following items which are always needed: water tall or short, pop, snacks, granola bars, beef jerky and small shaving cream. Anyone is welcome to come bake with us for this worthy cause.

UMW NO LONGER COLLECTING BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION. This program has moved online and physical box tops are being phased out of production. Thank you for your support of Henderson Settlement throughout the years. If you’d like to continue to support this United Methodist Mission, download the BoxTop App and choose “Frakes School Center 40940” or “Clairfield Elementary School 37715” as your school. Learn more at BTFC.COM.

BROOKSIDE COLLECTION FOCUS: Soup! In the months of January and February, let’s fill the bin with soup for our hungry siblings in Cleveland!

Start your JOURNEY

Exploring membership at Brecksville United Methodist Church

Everyone is welcome (and encouraged!) to participate in the life of Brecksville United Methodist Church, growing in their love of God and serving others through Brecksville UMC. Members and first-time guests alike are welcome to participate in just about every aspect of our church community. When people first begin attending church, the questions they usually ask themselves are, “What can I get out of this church?” or “How can this church serve me or help me?” These questions are important as one discerns whether a church is a good “fit” as a place they can grow and serve. But as we become more involved and grow as disciples, the questions change to “What can I do for God through this church?” and “How can I help this church reach more people with the Good News of Jesus?” When this transition happens, it’s time to prayerfully consider whether you’re ready to become a member of the church. Brecksville UMC’s Membership Journey has several steps to help you discern whether we are a good “fit” for you and whether becoming a member is the next step in your faith journey.

1



Basic Beliefs is a 3-week class focused on learning the basics of faith through a United Methodist lens and the history of our denomination. Before you become a member of a United Methodist Church, it’s important to know “whether you’re our kind of crazy.” There’s so many wonderful things in The UMC, and you’ll hear about them in this class! The next session of Basic Beliefs is on Sundays at 10 am on 1/12, 19 & 26.

2



Talk with the Team is an opportunity to gather around the table with our Ministry Team, ask questions, and get to know us. We will share about the ministries and missions of BUMC, and take a tour of the building. The next Talk with the Team is on February 2 at 11:30 am.

3



The Membership Class is the final step in the Membership Journey. This class focuses on what it means to be a discipling, active member of Brecksville UMC: using your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to love God and love others. In this 4-week class, we will help you discover your “Jesus story,” learn about your God-given gifts and talents, and use those gifts to glorify God through BUMC. The next session of this class will be on Sundays at 10 am, 3/8-3/29.

You may take as long or as short as you would like to make your way through this Membership Journey. Talk with the Team and Basic Beliefs can be taken in any order, but we ask that the Membership Class be the last class in your journey. At the end of the Membership Class, we will receive new members during worship on 4/5.

**FINANCIAL
PEACE**
University

If you are fed-up being controlled by your money, and want to learn to take control of it, this course is for you. If you need to know how to get out of debt, this course is for you. If you wonder ‘will we ever have enough money?’ this course is for you. It’s estimated that the average family who participates in the course pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days! During each 90 minute session, we will view a video lesson on how to take control of our personal finances, followed by small group discussions. Dave Ramsey does the teaching and you start taking the baby steps to take back control. The 9 week course starts February 9. Registration coming soon!

Introducing Church Council Chairperson,

Sue Hastings!



The church council is the administrative agency of the charge conference to envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the ministry of the congregation. (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 2016, ¶252)

You are encouraged to join us at the first Church Council meeting of 2020, Tuesday, January 7 at 7 pm. Church Council will meet the first Tuesday of every other month at 7 pm, with some exceptions. Mark your calendar for these dates: March 3, May 5, September 1 and November 4.

Other members of Church Council include the committee chairs listed in the table below and the following people: Secretary, Brenda Calovini; Lay Member to Annual Conference, George Gee; Annual Conf. Member at Large, Jenny Gee; President of United Methodist Women, Kathy Sopka; Church Historian, Marianne Nolan; Members-at-large: Ric Lesinski, Amy Piorkowski, Dave Brown, Paul Frank, Alan Scheufler.

Church Council	Sue Hastings
Education	Jenny Gee
Fellowship Committee	Lynn Hobzek Donna Sibits
Finance	Eric Louttit
Gifts & Memorials	Ann Rittman
Missions & Outreach	Janet Kleckner Mary Kotnik
Music & Worship Board	Carly Kubek
Staff Parish Relations	TBD
Trustees	Bob Lundholm
Youth Board	Dana Schwendeman



Save The Date!! Mark your calendars for the Rise Up Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event coming to Brecksville UMC.

Sunday, February 23 will be a "Workshop" Sunday in Fellowship Hall. There will be two shifts (9:30 and 11 am) for packaging nourishing meals to help people across the world. Our church has successfully completed two previous events with this organization (although they were under different names at the time - Project Feed, Stop Hunger Now)

Missions and Outreach is challenging the congregation to raise \$7,500, which they will match dollar for dollar. A link for online giving is coming soon where 100% of the donations go to our event - unlike Go Fund Me, no fees are deducted. You can also donate to Brecksville UMC and label your donation *Rise Up Against Hunger*.

The Rise Up Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event can be made into a valuable family teaching event. Children can learn what a nourishing meal costs - approximately \$.33. Can they donate a meal or two between now and the beginning of February? Are there small or larger chores they can perform to earn money to donate? We will have collection boxes for "loose change" on Sundays in January.

Here are some examples to think about:

- A \$15 pizza many of us enjoy would equal 45 meals (approximately)
- A \$3.50 Starbucks beverage yields 10 meals (approx)
- Dinner for two in a local restaurant \$40 - \$80 equates to 121 - 242 meals (approx)

More details will follow so please watch for information in the next Good Word and in the Sunday Morning Bulletins. We are very excited to bring this opportunity back to BUMC and partner you to rise to the challenge to raise \$15,000 for nourishing meals!

- Blessings to you, your families and friends, Missions & Outreach Committee

YOUTH NEWS

Open Table Service and Dinner—January 5— from 4 - 6 pm

We are starting off 2020 with a night of togetherness. Join us for a time of worship at the Open Table service in the sanctuary (4-5 pm), hosted by the East Ohio Reconciling Ministries Network, then for dinner in Fellowship Hall (5-6 pm). Special thanks to the Brachna family for sponsoring our meal of pizza and salad for us! Students are welcome to attend at any point in the evening. This event is open to all students, grade 6 and above. RSVP to Dana by January 3.

“The Gathering” Youth and Parent Game Night—

Jan. 12 at 4 m Youth Room (406)

It's a new year and a new decade! Time for us to look at youth ministry with a fresh perspective. **“Where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”- Matthew 18:20** As we welcome 2020, we will be welcoming our new take on youth group that we are calling “The Gathering.” Students in grades 6-12 and their parents are invited to come to this event and learn about the new youth group schedule and vision for the future. We will have food and fun board games to play. We want to give your family time to be together! To help us plan our new schedule we need your input, check out the link to our survey in the January Youth Newsletter, weekly Blast, and parent email to give your feedback. Partner with us as we move into this new time for Brecksville UMC youth ministry and we hope to see you on the twelfth! RSVP to Dana (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) by January 9.

Mark your calendars for these important 2020 Youth Ministry dates:

- ▶ February 21- 23 - Confirmation Retreat
- ▶ March 8- 5 pm - Music with a Mission
- ▶ May 17- Confirmation Sunday
- ▶ June 4-7- YSP Jr. and YAC to Lakeside, OH
- ▶ June 21-27- YSP to Hamilton, OH
- ▶ July 6-10 - Volunteering at VBS
- ▶ July 12-18 - Reach Out Camp at Lakeside, OH



WEAR YOUR SUMMER ATTIRE!

S'WINTER

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

for the music & worship scholarship

Saturday | 01.25.2020 | 12-? PM

REGISTRATION OPENS JAN 5

2 pm - Food & 3 pm - Tournament

Cost of Tournament: \$15 individual or \$40/family

2-3 People per Team

Register on Sundays, Jan 5—19



Pearl Road Dinner

Sunday, January 26

Pearl Road United Methodist Church provides a free hot meal to anyone in need on the last 2 Sundays of each month (and on the second Thursday, too!) Quarterly, we work in conjunction with other area churches to help provide that meal by preparing a salad course, main dish or dessert and providing volunteers to serve the meal—so others won't go hungry. Our next date to serve is Sunday, January 26. Sign up in the lobby or contact the church office. Let us know if you'd like to carpool! Pearl Road UMC is located at the intersection of Memphis and Pearl Roads: 4200 Pearl Road, Old Brooklyn. Parking and access from Memphis Road. Dinner is served promptly at 5 pm and we're usually finished with clean up by 6:30 pm.



Prayer and Praise Notes

To request prayer through our Prayer Chain, call the Church Office 440.526.8938 or contact Elinor Rowan at 440.230.1540

or

elrowan33@aol.com.



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

E-mail or phone Melanie
with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

Nancy Kroenke thanks everyone for their prayers for her son, Mark, who made it through surgery without complication. God is good! Ruth Herman asked us to share this message "Many thanks for all the cards and gifts I received for my retirement from the president position of the UMW. I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness of everyone. When I started with the UMW I never imagined the impact this organization would have on me. It became my passion to do God's work the only way I knew how - by raising money for missions. The money we made over the years helped so many deserving people and that is my biggest reward. I want to thank all the UMW women and the members of this church for giving me the opportunity to lead, to work alongside them and share my passion. God Bless your friendship and support!"

Marisol Wylie sends her thanks and love to everyone who reached out to her with condolences on the death of her beloved sister, Chique. She's thankful for her church family!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Joni Robinson	1	Nathan Hulten	10	Jennifer Schneider	18
Penny Lienert	3	Gerry McMaster	11	Jessica Zawada	18
Michael Patrick	3	Marc Vincent	11	Kaitlyn Ellis	20
Michelle Shively	3	Jennifer Hoffman	13	Brian Meek	20
Emily Vincent	3	Jim Smith	13	Dan Auble	21
Donna Sibits	4	Steven Chen	14	Pat Gordon	21
Kaya Roberts	5	Maddy McBride	14	Nate Bender	22
Nate Machesky	6	Angie Example	15	Bob Lundholm	24
Claudia Monnett	6	Joy Fenton-Jones	15	Colin Crouch	25
Lucas Juniper	7	Scott Ford	15	Katie Hurder	25
Autumn Lasich	7	Donna Houston	15	Sue Hastings	26
Lois Hahn	8	Marianne Nolan	15	Bill Long	26
Cole Mihalich	9	Sam Papp	15	Kimmer Cave	28
David Vastartis	9	Adalaide Spitzer	15	Donna Culley	28
James Vastartis	9	Lois Moston	16	Lona Seifert	29
		Aundrea Dumot	17	Rick Dean	30
		Eliot Slifcak	17	Jill Magistro	30
		Kim Johnson	18	Don Salsbury	30
		Fred Loeffler	18	Kathy Goebel	31
		Ellen Martin	18	DJ Magee	31



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. Folks like The Kubeks, who helped drive our youth team to Project Feed in New Comerstown. To everyone who pitched in for Hanging of the Greens—the church looked beautiful this Christmas season! For Jane Petrie, who so generously provided all seven of the live wreaths hanging on the church exterior doors. They are beautiful! For Nancy Knowlton, who leads Asbury Bremeth and organized the UMW potluck luncheon. For Nancy Lee (and Jim!) who so generously donated the proceeds from her jewelry sale for Missions. And for the many, many people who pitched in to make Christmas Eve such a special, sacred experience for all. We give thanks for each of you, one and all, named and unnamed! Amen!



Aloha! Let's luan!
TUESDAY, JAN. 14
AT NOON
It's free if you RSVP!
440-526-8938

January 2020

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
5 Communion 8:45 Worship 10 Pancake Breakfast 11:15 Worship 4 Open Table Svc 5 All Youth Dinner	6  <i>Ruth Herman</i> <i>Bev Gooding</i>	7 10 Staff Mtg 7 Church Council	8 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 Eve Circle—USO Cookie Bake	9  9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30 UMW Budget Meeting	11 Bread Ministry: ? <i>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</i>
12 8:45 Worship— with baptism 10 Classes for all and Basic Beliefs 11:15 Worship 12:30 YSP Meeting 4 The Gathering	13	14 10 Staff Mtg 12 Lunch Bunch 7:30 Music & Worship Board	15 6:30 Breakfast	16  7:30 Choir Rehearsal 	17 <i>UMW Delivery to Brookside</i>	18 Bread Ministry: ? 7 Bill Long Birthday/ Ellenberger Recital
19 8:45 Worship 10 Classes for all and Basic Beliefs 11:15 Worship	20 <i>The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance</i> Office Closed	21 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 7:30 Trustees	22 6:30 Breakfast	23  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	24	25 Bread Ministry: ? 12 S'Winter Corn Hole Tourney
26 8:45 Worship 10 Classes for all and Basic Beliefs 11:15 Worship Pearl Road Dinner	27	28 10 Staff Mtg 7 Finance	29 6:30 Breakfast	30  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	

For details and more information visit www.brecksvilleumc.com



Brecksville UMC

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Socialize with us!

Pulling Out All the Stops

A Pipe Organ Extravaganza
Celebrating
Bill Long's 90th birthday

Bill Ellenberger is back at the keyboard!
Saturday, January 18 at 7 pm
BUMC Sanctuary

Special guest Becky Chen, flute

Stories, songs, a little humor
and a lot of fun
(and a chance to sing your favorite hymns!)

Birthday refreshments to follow.

The Long and Ellenberger families
invite everyone to come celebrate!



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.