

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Third Grade Bibles—2020 Style



All Saints Sunday, November 1



The Season of Thanks and Giving

WHAT'S ON YOUR LIST?

This year has been a long one.

So many changes.

So much exhaustion.

So many times I've said, "I'm OVER. IT."

So when we approached Stewardship this fall, I asked the question: *should we bring back the gratitude journals? And the overwhelming response was, "Yes!"*

This year has been difficult. And to focus on gratitude right now might seem like we're trying to ignore reality—like candy-coating a rotten apple. But it's not. I recently came across a quote from Diana Butler

Bass' book *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* and it hit me hard:

"Gratitude does not deny pain or overlook injustice, because being grateful does not 'fix' anything. Pain, suffering, and injustice—these things are all real. They do not go away.

Gratitude, however, invalidates the false narrative that these things are the sum total of human existence, that despair is the last word.

Gratitude gives us a new story. It opens our eyes to see that every life is, in unique and dignified ways, graced: the lives of the poor, the castoffs, the sick, the jailed, the exiles, the abused, the forgotten, as well as those in more comfortable physical circumstances. Your life. My life. We all share in the ultimate gift—life itself. Together. Right now."

As we head into November and the holiday season, there are going to be more and more things that we're going to miss. This year just isn't going to be the same as others. It is important to acknowledge and

Continued on next page...

WORSHIP WITH US

LIVE ONLINE SUNDAYS AT 9 AM
SERMONS BY PHONE 440-526-0653
WATCH ONLINE ANYTIME - 24/7

COMMUNION 1ST SUNDAY @11 OUTSIDE

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Published monthly by

Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141
Article deadline 3rd Thursday monthly

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

...Continued from front page.

mourn those things—people, holiday gatherings and parties, traditions, etc. that will be missing from our lives.

But don't let that be the only list you make.

Next to the list of all the things you'll miss, make a list of the things you DO have this year. These lists won't necessarily match—one list won't take the place of the other. These two lists will give you the opportunity to see that even though things are hard and messy and not the way you want, **there are good things too.** It's not an "I don't have *this thing*, but I do have *this thing*." It's an "I don't have *this thing* AND I do have *this thing*."

I miss seeing you each Sunday. (I can't think about it too much or my heart hurts.)

AND I am having *the best time getting to know some of you deeper in small groups and bible studies.*

Acknowledge the "hard" and honor it, while also honoring the "good" God has given you. I started off the year saying "we can do hard things" and it still rings true... even if I haven't run my half marathon... yet.

Take care,

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

United Methodist Student Day 11/29

"When I started searching for colleges to attend," Adazia Mellott said, "cost was a big factor." Her clergy dad encouraged her to visit [Geneva College](#) in Beaver Falls, PA. "I immediately fell in love," she said. She applied for—and received—a Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible through the United Methodist Student Day offering. "I owe it all to the people who gave to me through these scholarships," Mellott continued, "because, without them, I wouldn't have been able to choose the college God intended for me." Participating in mission journeys with her church family fueled her passion for missionary work. Mellott's dream is to become a missionary nurse. "I want to show other people the love of Christ," she said. Please give generously on United Methodist Student Day. Thank you!

"ONE CHILD,
ONE TEACHER,
ONE BOOK, ONE PEN
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD."
— Malala Yousafzai

#UNITEDMETHODISTSTUDENTDAY

TUESDAYS @ 7 PM / WEDNESDAYS @ 10 AM

Lectio Divina

Praying the Scriptures Reading the Bible is great, but praying the scripture is a way to bring the stories in the Bible into your life in a deeply personal way. Join Jenny Gee on Tuesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel or Wednesdays at 10 am in the Parlor. Lectio Divina (Latin for “sacred reading”) is an incredibly intimate way to hear God speak through the scriptures. No materials are necessary. Bring a Bible and a journal if you'd like. As always, all are welcome, all the time! Please wear a mask.



On Third Grade Bible Sunday (October 18) Bibles were presented to four of our third graders who were able to attend the 5 pm outdoor worship service in the church parking lot. Although it was a different kind of celebration this year, it was incredibly meaningful and memorable. Congratulations to Zach Kardos, Addie Knight, Addie Magee and Paige Noggle (pictured). (Brandon Houff and Gabby Marotto were unable to attend but will be receiving their Bibles soon!) The kids were also given a bookmark with 25 “favorite scriptures” submitted by members of this church family. And of course, there were cupcakes!

Becoming a Good Samaritan

*“Yesterday is gone.
Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today.
Let us begin.”
- Mother Teresa*

Who is our neighbor?

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30 AM
ONLINE

All are welcome, all the time. Drop in!

SUNDAY 11/1

All Saints Sunday

We will honor those who have died in the past 12 months with prayer, lighting of candles and tolling of the bell. If you lost someone this year, please submit their name by Tuesday, Oct 27. Call 440-526-8938 or email office@brecksvilleumc.com.

Commitment Sunday

On Commitment Sunday, we put our trust in God and in the future of this church. Please prayerfully complete your commitment card (included in this newsletter and available as an [online form](#).) Return printed cards to the church: 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

VETERANS SUNDAY 11/8

Honoring our Veterans with Prayer and Care

Veterans Sunday will be observed on Sunday, November 8, with special guest speaker Will Fenton-Jones, Director of Multicultural Vitality for the East Ohio Conference. Will currently serves in the Army Reserve and previously served eight years of active duty as a chaplain's assistant in the Army where he developed training to mentor chaplains and military leaders in their understanding of, and ability to work with, complex religious relationships in Afghanistan and other settings.

We will enjoy our special Veterans Slide Show and will surround all veterans with prayer.



Thanksgiving Offering this year will go to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to be used on a National Level. We have seen a record number of hurricanes, flooding and wildfires this year, and the money will be of great use. When making this donation online, by check or cash, please mark it “Thanksgiving.”

Through UMCOR 100% of the donated monies go to providing relief. That’s right! One hundred percent! That’s because each year the United Methodist Church sets aside one special Sunday in March (UMCOR Sunday—formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) to collect donations to cover administrative costs, allowing all other donations to go to the designated area of need.



Prayer and Praise Notes

Request prayer through our Prayer Chain. Call the Church Office 440.526.8938 or contact Elinor Rowan at 440.230.1540 or email rowanel33@gmail.com



Brecksville UMC Youth Group is growing during the pandemic

Game Night Extravaganza- November 1 @ 7pm

Join us for Virtual Youth Group November 1 at 7pm for a full night of games. We will be playing Quiplash, Fibbage, Game of Things, Emoji Charades, and Among Us! It’s the perfect night to invite friends and have a blast. Bring your competitive edge and we will see you there. Email Dana for the Zoom info!

Virtual Youth Group - November 8, 15, 22 @ 7pm

Each Sunday you can expect to join Virtual Youth Group for a time of weekly check-ins, a lesson with video, and a fun game. In November, we will be exploring the theme of “Bible” through our curriculum *Think. Believe. Do.* Students are invited to consider why the Bible is important to their faith, how it influences Christianity as a whole, and how we navigate the conflicting, confusing parts. Anyone can join from anywhere—so email Dana to get the details!

Youth Advent at Home Kit

Dana is putting together interactive Advent kits for students in grades six through college. This kit will be full of activities that challenge students (and parents) to dive deeper into the story of Christmas and help them prepare in new ways for the coming Christ child. Students will develop through creativity, critical thinking, scripture exploration, and plain old Christmas fun. Do you have a student who could use just a little bit more cheer this year? Sign up to have a Youth Advent Kit delivered to your home. We have a delivery schedule of sometime between November 22-25. Sign ups will close November 17, so email Dana ASAP for the [Google Form link!](#)

Contact Dana Schwendeman

E-mail youth@brecksvilleumc.com Voicemail 440-526-8938 x 237



@BUMCYouthMin

linktr.ee/bumcyouth





Dear Church family,

We've almost made it to 2021! *insert cannons of confetti & streamers here*

2020 has been *hard*—many mornings we've woken up scared of the new chaos we'll discover when we turn on the news. I'm sure many of us have developed trust issues, wondering, "How can I trust that 2021 will be any better?" And yet in Psalm 121 we read:

I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot slip— the One who watches over you will not slumber.

2020 has shown me the truth in this Psalm. Again and again I've had to trust that God's strength would hold me up when I was too exhausted to move, and God's wisdom would guide me when I had no words to say. Our help *does* come from the Lord, and God *will not sleep* on the job.

This year has also taught me to trust *you* more than ever. I've seen you show up for one another, give of yourselves to those in need, and continue to give financially even when at first glance it seems the whole church has shut down. We are averaging about 225-250 (conservatively) joining us on a Sunday morning for worship. We have small groups 5 days a week (3 on Sundays and Wednesdays!), with people joining via Zoom from all over the US. We are reaching "over the bridge," making new mission connections in the communities of Nordonia, Macedonia, and Sagamore Hills. AND we are within striking distance of our projected 2020 budget (in a pandemic!)

After a year like 2020, I'm not sure *what* to expect of 2021. What I do know is that I can trust God, and I can trust that the Spirit of God is moving through the faith community of Brecksville UMC.

As we prepare for the upcoming year of growing, connection, and missions, discovering a *new* normal is our goal at Brecksville UMC: taking the good of "pre-COVID life," combining it with things we've learned this year, and creating a new normal in which we can thrive.

On the other side of this page is a narrative budget to help show you where we will focus our resources in 2021. We will take what we've learned this year and redirect our time and your gifts to meet the changing demands of the future. We want you to be able to trust us with your financial gifts. We realize it's a *big deal* for you to give to God through our church, especially in this time of uncertainty and holy disturbance.

In this box you will also find a 2021 Commitment Card, which asks you to prayerfully consider how you will give to God through our church in the coming year. These cards are important because first and foremost they give you an opportunity to make a commitment to God. Secondly,

these cards help the Brecksville UMC Leadership budget wisely for the coming year. When you give to God through BUMC it shows that you trust in God to provide for your needs, and you trust us to be a worthwhile investment, using your money to make the most impact for God's kingdom.

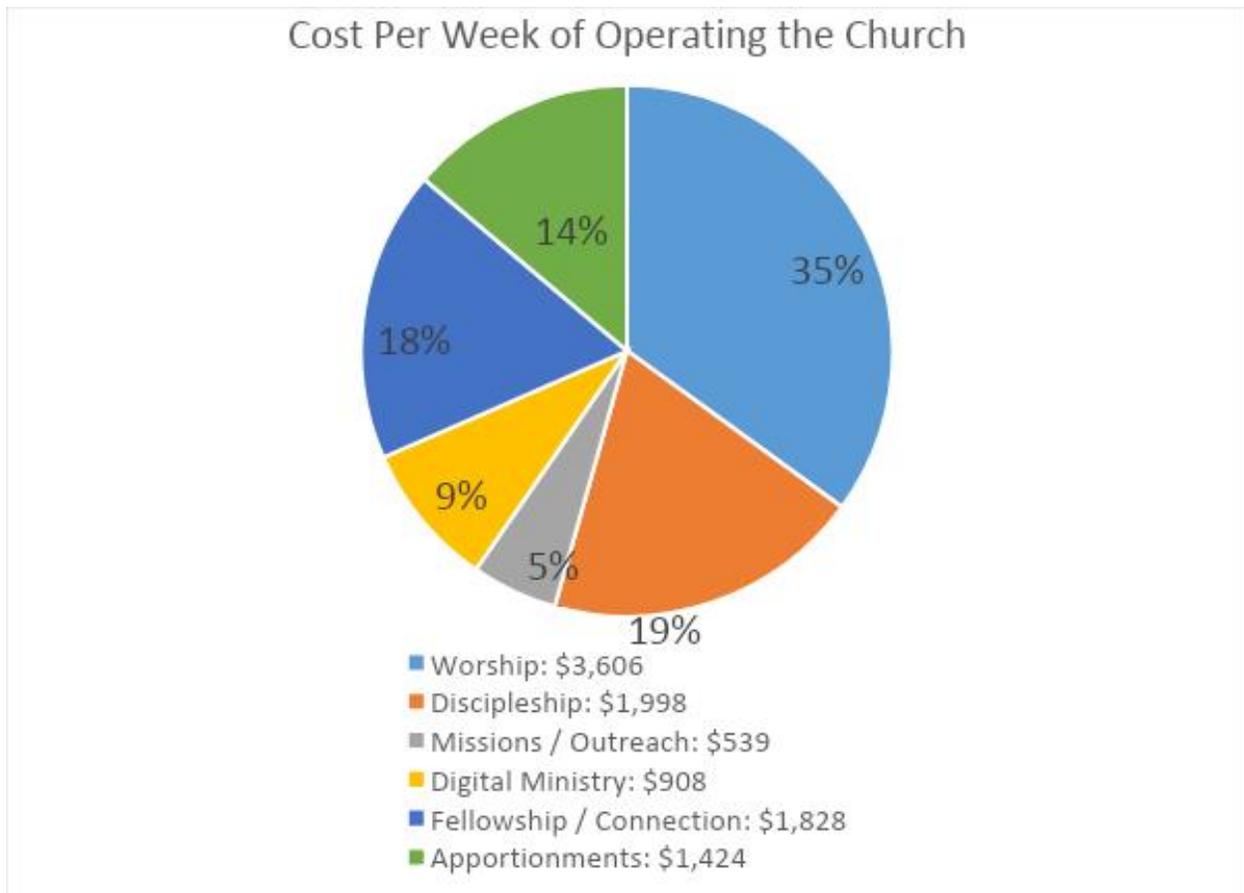
I am excited for 2021. Not because that means 2020 will be over, but because it gives us an opportunity to grow on what we've learned in this holy disturbance, and trust God to do the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet!

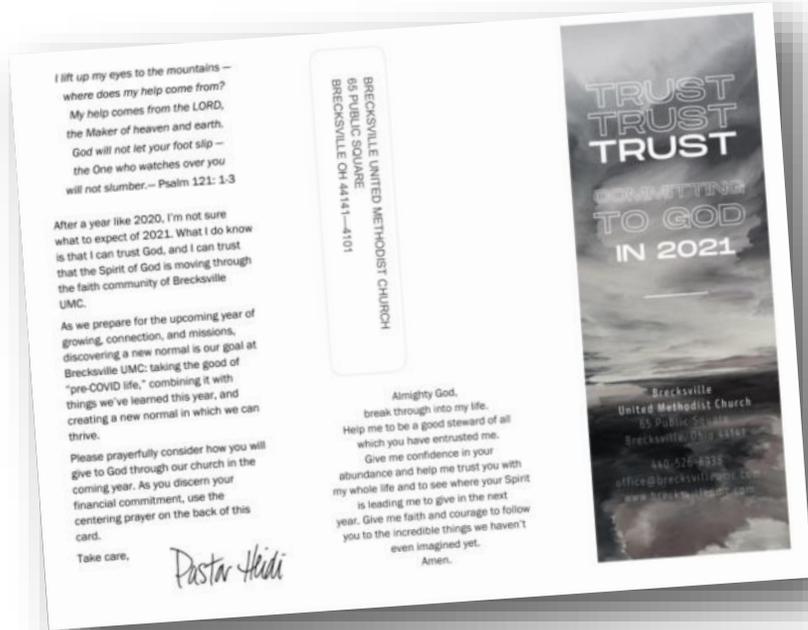
Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Narrative Budget for 2020

Given this unprecedented year, the Stewardship Committee has been determined to deliver a campaign that is both reflective of the current situation globally and congregationally. We have created a "narrative budget" in order to show how your money is spent each week, see graph below. While we have certainly had to pivot in the way we operate as a Church, we are still delivering the message of Jesus Christ with our programs and missions! Any questions? Contact Becky at finance@brecksvilleumc.com.





Commitment Sunday is November 1

Complete the card online:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/Giving/stewardship/

Download a full size card to print:

www.brecksvilleumc.com/admoffice/pdfs/Commitment_Card_2021.pdf

Or print, complete and return this page to

Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141

Why is returning this Commitment Card important?

By completing and returning this card, you are expressing your intent and affirming your commitment to God this year. These cards also help the Brecksville UMC Leadership budget wisely for the coming year. All the ministries implemented through our church are dependent on the generosity and participation of God's people.

What happens to my Commitment Card once I return it?

When your card is returned to the church, our Financial Secretary documents your commitment and adds your commitment to our projected 2021 budget. **Your card is confidential** and is not a legally binding contract. It is your personal commitment to God and to this church family. If your situation changes and you would like to increase or decrease your commitment, please call the church office.

What is a tithe?

Scripture speaks of a tithe as a standard for giving. A tithe is defined as the first ten percent of our earnings, returned to God and the work of the church.

MONTHLY INCOME—Tithe Calculator					
%	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$12,500
12%	300	600	900	1,200	1,500
10%	250	500	750	1,000	1,250
8%	200	400	600	800	1,000
6%	150	300	450	600	750
4%	100	200	300	400	500
2%	50	100	150	200	250

MY COMMITMENT TO GOD IN 2021

____ I/We Trust God to provide for my/our future needs and trust Brecksville UMC to use my/our giving to make the most impact for God's kin-dom.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

COMMITMENT OF GIVING

I plan to financially give the following to the ministries of my church in 2021:

\$ _____ Weekly or Monthly or Quarterly or Annually (circle one)

COMMITMENT TO THE PLANNED EXPENSE FUND

I plan to contribute to the capital improvements fund (PEF) in 2021:

\$ _____ Weekly or Monthly or Quarterly or Annually (circle one)

Please send my monthly statement of giving:

____ by e-mail ____ by mail ____ by both mail and e-mail ____ year end only

- I would like a set of offering envelopes. Weekly or Monthly (circle one)
- I plan to give electronically. Learn more at: www.brecksvilleumc.com/giving
- Tell me more about other ways to give to the church (stock, appreciated assets...)
- I have included the church in my will or trust.
- Please contact me about a planned giving program.
- I would like to know more about company matching gifts.

This is a statement of intent only and can be altered if circumstances change.



A Season of Giving

BRECKSVILLE UMC MISSIONS AND OUTREACH DONATION DRIVE

In this season of giving, there is so much need. Together, we can help! The Missions and Outreach Committee has found several ways that we can share what God's generosity can look like this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Season. Consider hosting a collection drive with your friends, neighbors, or coworkers! Have question? Reach out: office@brecksvilleumc.com



Midwest Missions Distribution Center

All churches in the East Ohio Conference are asked to support the work of MMDC, and there will be a central collection point for the North Coast District—

Strongsville UMC. **Drop off 11/30—12/4 from 9 am—4 pm** (to the pavilion on the north side of the property. Call 440-238-6135 after you drop off. Items needed include:

- Jump ropes
- Sports balls
- Pump for the deflated balls
- Simple musical instruments
- Simple board games (no batteries)
- 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- 16-40 oz. liquid household cleaner (no spray)
- 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- Toothpaste - 2.5 oz or larger

The Emergency Assistance Center (TEAC)



TEAC is a food pantry located in Northfield, serving neighbors who qualify for food assistance. The organization is supported entirely by monetary, food and hygiene donations from the local community. Their program, Christmas Lane, provides families with gift cards to make the holidays brighter. To create equal packages, they are asking for cards in \$10 increments to: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Five Below, Chick-fil-a, Chipotle, Subway and McDonalds. You can give online and mark "Brecksville United Methodist Church" as your organization. It is always fun to see how much good can be done when everyone gives a little.

Visit: givebutter.com/teacchristmaslane or text teac4kids to (202) 858-1233

The Assistance Tree Food, Cleaning Products, Toiletries



Let's fill the tree, near the first floor coat room, with non-perishable food, cleaning products and toiletries for the people served by Brookside Food Center in Cleveland. *Through Dec. 31*

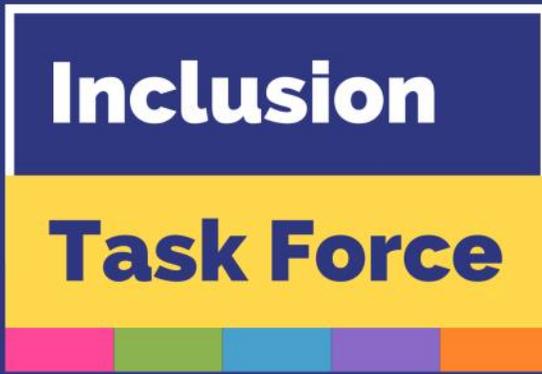
The Hat and Mitten Tree will be a box this year!



We're collecting hats, scarves, mittens, gloves and masks for those in need through January 10. Look for the donation box inside the first floor entry door. *Through January 10*

A JOY SHARED IS A JOY MULTIPLIED!

Prefer to shop on line? Visit our Amazon Wishlist and ship right to the church! Watch the bulletin and the weekly e-news for the link!



Addressing Racism

One resolution was submitted for this year's Annual Conference. Resolution 2020-01: *"A Call for East Ohio United Methodists to Address Racism in our Churches and Communities."*

This resolution prayerfully calls on clergy, lay leaders and individual members of the United Methodist churches in East Ohio to:

- Read and discuss resolutions passed by General Conference 2016 that address specific actions and inactions that have perpetuated racism in our local churches and communities, and within ourselves.
- Provide and promote opportunities to discuss this resolution within their local churches and districts.
- Read, observe, listen and examine instances of racism within local communities.
- Host discussions related to matters of race in our communities so as to identify ways local congregations can participate in and promote dismantling racism.
- Commit to addressing racism so as to build The United Methodist Church as an authentically inclusive Christian community.
- Prayerfully reflect individually to discern our roles and individual responsibilities in having contributed to racism and commit to dismantling racism in our churches and wider communities.

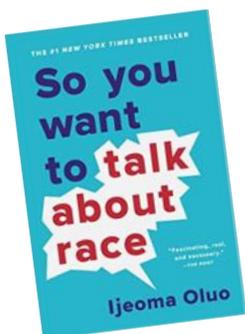


Have you ever heard of gaychurch.org or belovedarise.org? Members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies who want to find an affirming church are able to go to either of these websites for help! Several of our newer attendees were looking for an affirming church and found us at gaychurch.org. They visited Brecksville UMC, felt comfortable, and now are actively attending and participating in the life our church!

We applied to be included in the directory on Gaychurch.org because we wanted Brecksville UMC to be acknowledged as a place where a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, their family members, and allies can come to seek Jesus Christ and be treated no differently than anyone else. Visit www.gaychurch.org/find_a_church and enter our zip code (44141) and you will find our listing. There is a map and link to our website.

It is estimated 1.8 million queer youth in the U.S. seriously consider suicide each year. It is unconscionable that much of their shame and suffering happens within religious communities. We at Brecksville UMC want to be part of the hope for queer young people, so we submitted a request to be included in the directory for belovedarise.org, the first national organization dedicated primarily to empowering youth to proudly embrace both their faith and queer identity. Visit www.belovedarise.org for many resources: the church directory, devotions, podcasts, Zoom youth group, mental wellness and more.

Take a few moments and go to these websites to learn about the many other churches in the Cleveland area that join us in being affirming, and about the life-saving resources available for queer youth. - *Linda Crouch, Inclusion Task Force Chair*



New Book Study Forming—*So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo "Generous and empathetic, yet usefully blunt . . . it's for anyone who wants to be smarter and more empathetic about matters of race and engage in more productive anti-racist action." -- *Salon* This summer, an Anti-Racism small group formed and used this book as their roadmap. This winter, Brenda Calovini would like to lead another group through the book, time and date to be determined by participants. Contact the office to express interest! office@brecksvilleumc.com



Our Care & Prayer Mail Project aims to spread some cheer, one message of care, and of prayer, at a time. We are surrounding one person or family in prayer each week and it's been wonderful! Be a part of it!

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 1

Faith McAllister (new address!)
21 Poppy Ln
Granville, OH 43023-3200

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8

Ruth Bondra
Brookdale Medina South
100 Highpoint Dr. #B4
Medina, OH 44256

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15

Bob & Carol Kubicek
41 Delft Cir
The Renaissance
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138-1263

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22

Donald & Beryl Burkle
3464 Logwood Trl
Richfield, OH 44286-9359

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29

Al Hahn
8400 S Bedford Rd Apt 323
American Home
Macedonia, OH 44056-4004

Pastor Barbara says, "Be a blessing for those in our church family you may not see on Zoom or in the parking lot. They will be thrilled to hear from you. Thanks for being loving, caring people of Christ!"

Check back next month for a new list!

President's Notes: Although we aren't meeting in person right now, the important work of the United Methodist Women continues. Without cherry pie sales and other fundraising opportunities, our mission funds are low—but we still want to support five area food banks, especially now when there is such need. If you'd like to help, please send donations to the church, attention United Methodist Women. Thank you!

The UMW Board will meet November 20 in the Parlor. Masks and social distancing will be practiced. If you are not able to attend, minutes of the meeting will be shared.

In 1957 Aileen Benninghoff, a church member, presented a Wesley Tea Service from England to the womens' group. Does anyone know what happened to it? - *Kathy Sopka*



College Care Packages It's become a tradition for the UMW Evening Circle to send care packages to college students each fall. This year, they're sending eGift Cards, instead of packages, to students in November. If you would like your college student to receive an eGift Card, please send their email address to Fran McClean (fmcclean@msn.com) or Judy McCrodden (bjasb@aol.com) by October 31. You can help fund this ministry by sending monetary donations, marked UMW eGift Cards, to the church. Thank you for helping us recognize and care for our college students!

Brecksville UMC History Project Over the past several months, we have all enjoyed the history shared in this column by UMW member, Sharon Judson. Sharon recently enrolled in "Local Church Historian School" an online course from the United Methodist Church, and is learning about preserving church records, compiling history and celebrating our heritage. It's a big project! She has enlisted some church photographers in the project and would love to talk to others in the church who are long time members or who are interested in church history. Reach out to the church office and we will put you in touch with Sharon!



Acme receipts needed! One easy way to support the UMW Mission Fund is to save your grocery receipts when you shop at Acme. We earn a 5% donation on certain items purchased at Acme between August 5 and December 26, 2020. Please save your receipts. They can be dropped off in the coat room (on the ground floor of the church) from 9 am to 12 pm Monday through Friday, mailed to the church, or given to Marianne Nolan or Kathy Sopka. In the last campaign we received over \$100 from Acme!



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

Share your news with your church family! Contact Melanie:

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

We extend our sympathies to the families of Doris Novak and Sandy Rhymer who passed away recently. May their memories be a blessing to you!

Pastor Heidi says “Thank you!” to everyone who took the time to send her well wishes for Clergy Appreciation Month.

We have a number of people celebrating wedding anniversaries in November. Congratulations to the Boldts, the Browns, the Burrows, the Cipollas, the Culleys, the Goodwins, the Magees, the Slabys and the Waldens.

A nice note arrived from Kelly, the BBHHS Senior we “adopted” last spring: “This year has been a crazy year with high school ending the way it did and college starting the way it has. Your gift was very thoughtful, especially during this hectic year. Thank you for the card and gifts, especially the flowers, t-shirt, thermos and water bottle. I use them



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nan Einheit	1	Bryan Miller	10	Ellie Batcheller	21
Karl Riccardi	1	Logan Vastartis	10	Rich Ling	21
Joyce Wuerth	1	Jan Kaminski	11	Shirley Paulovcin	21
Chia-Tien Chen	2	Judy McBride	11	Ian Roberts	21
Burke Engelhardt	2	Willy Baker	12	Doug Robie	21
Jim McBride	2	Ryan Hulten	12	Ryleigh Wischmeier	21
Hayden Vincent	2	Kevin Vastartis	12	Kimberly Campbell	22
Tony Cipolla	3	Kelsey Hogan	13	Becky Paroda	22
Alyssa Whitton	3	Jim Mueller	14	Martha Rosenthal	22
Jamie Schwendeman	4	Gregory Warth	14	Jennifer Sendrey	22
Elaine Geringer	5	Brian Wygonski	14	James Berry	25
Ella Nelson	5	Isaac Becker-Howell	15	Dave James	25
Melissa Schillo	5	Ryan Burrows	16	Debbi Scheufler	25
Brandon Calovini	6	Sandy Crist	16	Douglas Farling	26
Karl Robie	6	Edison Davis	16	Kelly Meyer	26
Sean Lundholm	7	Mike Gezze	17	Natalie Teare	26
Ardyn Olszko	7	Zachary Johnson	17	Sean Brown	27
Cathy Drescher	8	Carol Snyderwine	17	Evan Davis	27
Tom Ellis	8	Jim Berry	18	Gina Goodwin	28
Brandon Fisher	8	Shirley Hill	19	Dee Lancaster	28
Darell Fisher	8	Brandon Klipfell	19	Kim Ling	28
Charlotte Hocutt	8	Donald Raybuck	19	Nick Rajkovich	28
Connor Hogan	8	Diana Wise	19	Kourtney Ellis	29
Al Filips	9	Carole Brachna	20	Kaitlyn Hazelton	29
Michele Mihalich	10	Kyle Holmok	20		

Fall Yard Clean Up!



You are invited to come spend a safe morning together in the church yard preparing our lawns and garden beds for winter. Will you join us on Saturday, November 14? If it's raining, we'll postpone to the 21st. Bring a rake if you have one! - *The Trustees Committee*



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Liz Fredrick, Linda Crouch and Tracy Adanich who worked together to create a beautiful new parament to signal the inclusion of all of God's people in the life of this church. And Tom Holmok, who retired after many years of faithfully securing the church on the church closing team, and Aleyna Gee who has stepped up to fill his shoes. Thank you Tom and Aleyna, for caring for the church building in such an important way! And Sharon Judson who has stepped out in faith to take on a really big project—a church history class! It's wonderful to see all of the new ways we are each stretching and learning in our lives of faith!

November

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour Online 10:30 Good Samaritan Class 11 Kids Connect 11 Communion 7 Virtual Youth Group</p>	2	<p>3 7 Lectio Divina <i>Election Day</i></p>	<p>4 7:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast @Panera 10 Lectio Divina 6 SPRC Consult with DS 7 Church Council 7 Bible Study?</p>	<p>5  10 Staff Meeting 6 Non-Violence Group</p>	6	<p>7 Bread Ministry— Hastings</p>
<p>8 <i>Veterans Sunday</i> 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour Online 10:30 Good Samaritan Class 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group</p>	9	<p>10 7 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>11 7:30 Dawnbreakers 10 Lectio Divina 7 Bible Study online</p>	<p>12  10 Staff Meeting 6 Non-Violence Group 7 Charge Conference 7 Missions & Outreach</p>	13	<p>14 Bread Ministry— Brachnas <i>Fall Yard Clean Up Day!</i></p>
<p>15 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour Online 10:30 Good Samaritan Class 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group</p>	16	<p>17 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio Divina 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>18 7:30 Dawnbreakers 10 Lectio Divina 7 Bible Study online</p>	<p>19  <i>Good Word Deadline</i> 10 Staff Meeting 6 Non-Violence Group</p>	20 9 UMW Board Meeting	<p>21 Bread Ministry— Millers <i>(Rain Date for Yard Clean Up)</i> RECORDING DAY</p>
<p>22 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour Online 10:30 Good Samaritan Class 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group</p>	23	<p>24 10 Staff Meeting 7 Finance</p>	<p>25 7:30 Dawnbreakers 7 Bible Study</p>	<p>26 </p>	27	<p>28 Bread Ministry— TBD</p>
<p>29 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> <i>UM Student Day</i> 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour Online 10:30 Good Samaritan Class 11 Kids Connect <i>7 Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent Begins Online</i></p>	30	<p>1 <i>Church Budget Due</i> <i>World AIDS Day</i></p>	<p>2 7:30 Dawnbreakers 10 Lectio Divina 7 Bible Study online</p>	<p>3  10 Staff Meeting 6 Non-Violence Group</p>	4	<p>5 Bread Ministry— TBD</p>

We encourage everyone to stay home and *help stop the spread*, but realize that there may be times that you need to visit the church office. Please call 440-526-8938 or email office@brecksvilleumc.com



Socialize with us!

I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE MOUNTAINS
— WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
GOD WILL NOT LET YOUR FOOT SLIP —
THE ONE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU
WILL NOT SLUMBER.

PSALM 121:1-3

650 PRAYER

Almighty God, There are so many unknowns right now. The one thing I know I can count on is your presence. When it seems the whole world is going sideways, I can trust that you are with me. “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” Help me trust you with my whole self. Assure me that even in the midst of this holy disturbance, you are leading me to incredible things I haven’t even imagined yet. **Amen.**



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.

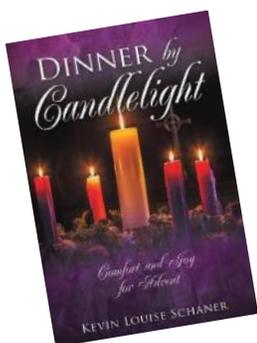
Advent Begins November 29

We turn the page of the calendar to find that the Season of Advent is just around the corner. The church staff is busy preparing for an Advent season like no other. Next month's newsletter will have more information about our plans for the season. For now, let's turn our attention to..



99 ¢ Advent Wreath. Courtesy of Building Faith: A ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary. November 9, 2016

At Home Advent Wreaths Families can sign up to receive a Brecksville UMC Advent wreath kit and devotions to help you celebrate the season together in a meaningful way. There are also plenty of ideas for ways you can make your own Advent Wreath at home. All you need are 4 (or 5) candles! We found instructions for a simple 99 cent personal advent wreath made from items you might have around your house—a piece of felt, some clay, a votive and birthday candles (instructions here: www.resourceumc.org/en/content/the-99-cent-advent-wreath) As we find them, we'll be adding other ideas to our Advent Pinterest board. Stay tuned to your weekly bulletin for resources throughout the season of Advent!



A Sunday Evening Advent Study for Women Join author Ms. Kevin Schaner and Rev. Kathy Dickriede for an ONLINE study of "Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent" Sundays from 7 - 8:30 pm, November 29 - December 27.

Christmas Is Coming! Feeling Anxious? Expect Hope, Love, Joy and Peace this Advent. Rekindle your anticipation of Christ's birth with comforting conversation. This conversation among women will ask which of the four themes seem the most challenging this year: Hope, Faith, Love or Peace? The book is available through Amazon.com - - or from the author directly for \$12 (which includes postage). Register here: <https://forms.gle/yLdSg9aZBUA3P6ke9>

Church Visioning

Over the past year, our church visioning process has started and stopped and sputtered in many different ways. We've had some great conversations, but we haven't had much "progress." Thankfully, that's about to change! The East Ohio Conference has invited Brecksville UMC to be part of a "Church Unique Learning Cohort." This means they are going to pay for us to work with a coach who will lead us through the process of creating our own *Church Unique* vision & mission. (This is our apportionment dollars at work!)



We have a BUMC Vision Team of 7 individuals who will meet once a month from November 2020 - June 2021. The goal is that by June, we will create a vision and mission that are unique to our location, community, and gifts, and a plan to actively live them out into the future. This process will continue the work we've already started with the *Church Unique* book, and we will use the insights from Home Gatherings last year, and from coaching with Dr. Martin two years ago.

Please pray for the seven individuals who are committed to working towards the future of our church:

Tracy Adanich • Sue Hastings • Mike Kubek • Ric Lesinski • Tim Miller • Jen Speith • Heidi Welch



YOUR CHURCH FAMILY'S FAVORITE VERSES

- ESTHER 4:14 - PASTOR HEIDI
- PSALM 18:2 - MARC VINCENT
- PSALM 46:10 - BEV HUBER
- PSALM 91 - DON KNOWLTON
- PSALM 91:4 - AMY MAGEE
- PSALM 103:8 - SYLVIA FOWLER
- PSALM 107: 1 - CINDY HUBERT
- PSALM 119: 105 - KATHY AUBLE
- PROVERBS 3:5-6 - KENDALL AND DEE LANCASTER
- PROVERBS 22:6 - LYNN HOBZEK
- SONG OF SOLOMON 4:2 - MELANIE SMITH
- MICAH 6.8 - MELANIE SMITH
- ZEPHANIAH 3:17 - BECKY GEZZE

Your church family loves you and want to share their favorite scripture passages. We celebrate with you today as you receive your Third Grade Bible!

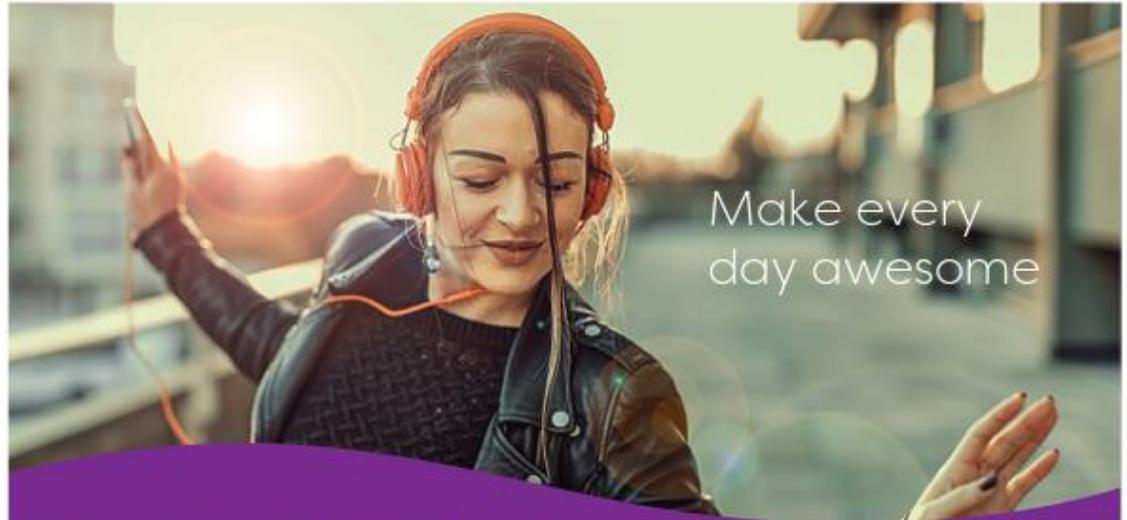


YOUR CHURCH FAMILY'S FAVORITE VERSES

- MATTHEW 7: 3 - KRISTI EBERHARDT
- MATTHEW 19: 26 - KATIE NOGGLE
- MARK 12:30-31 - GEORGE GEE
- JOHN 3: 16 - CRAIG CZARNOTA
- JOHN 13: 34-35 - PASTOR HEIDI
- JOHN 21: 17 - JENNY GEE
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 1 - ALISON BELL
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-7, 13 - CHUCK GEZZE
- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 - GAIL HUTH
- EPHESIANS 4: 29 - MIKE KUBEK
- PHILIPPIANS 3: 13-14 - LEANNE DAVIS
- PHILIPPIANS 4: 6-8 - MARLA KNIGHT
- PHILIPPIANS 4: 13 - BEV HUBER
- 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 - BRENDA CALOVINI

WE HOPE THEY MEAN AS MUCH TO YOU AS THEY DO TO US!

BLOOD DRIVE



Make every day awesome

Brecksville United Methodist Church

SUNDAY, NOV. 8
9:45 A.M. - 1:45 P.M.
VITALANT BLOODMOBILE
65 PUBLIC SQUARE, BRECKSVILLE

Donate blood. We'll let you know if you have the antibodies to help patients battling COVID-19.

At this time appointments are preferred & masks are required. Please make an appointment & earn reward points at vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal
 Group code: 4230

Please eat before you donate. Bring a photo ID & a list of any medications that you take.



GIVE BLOOD TODAY | vitalant.org

Eligibility questions? Call 877.258.4825

vitalant

Altar Flower Alternative

Honor a loved one, an anniversary, a birthday, a new baby, etc. with a Sunday Dedication. While the flowers on the altar will be fake, our love for one another isn't! To request a dedication, fill out the Google Form on our church website or contact the church office. Then make a donation through the church to one of these organizations: Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), the Parma Heights Food Pantry, the church budget, our affordable housing fund. The size of the donation doesn't matter -- the love behind it does! Your dedication will appear on the livestream during Sunday worship services. (*Requests must be received by Tuesday to appear in Sunday's livestream.*) This is a great way to honor your loved one, while sharing God's love with someone in need.

- Missions and Outreach Committee