

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



LIKE A SEEDLING

I planted some seeds in a little greenhouse planter in my front window: cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, slicing tomatoes, 2 kinds of peppers, lettuce, and summer squash. As I planted the tiny, little seeds in the pockets of soil, I thought about the quantity of fruit each plant would produce. If every seed took root, we would have enough vegetables to feed my family all summer... and then some! But that would only happen if the seeds broke open and were used as nutrients for the growing seedlings.

It's like what Jesus said in our scripture reading a couple of weeks ago: "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces

itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal" (John 12:24-25).

When the world shut down in March of 2020, we closed the doors to our church building and moved all ministry online. To anyone who drove past our building in Brecksville, though, we looked "dead to the world." And we kinda were—I didn't fully recognize it at the time, but we were dying to who we once were and growing into something new.

Over the past year, we've begun to open our building a little more, and a little more—like a seedling sprouting out of the ground. We have groups meeting at the church

building, but not to the extent we did before. Many groups have moved online, and I wonder if some will stay there—choosing the ease of meeting while at home over meeting in the same physical location. (We're sprouting up all over the place!)

Soon, we will be worshipping together in-person again, which will only increase our accessibility and connection—this is when we could really flourish! But we have to remember one very important thing: we're not the same church we were in March of 2020. We've gone through a transformation—a reformation—and we are a New Brecksville United Methodist Church. We are rooted in the same soil of Jesus Christ, we have the same values of honest worship, joyful gathering, lifelong learning,

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WORSHIP WITH US

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

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

Continued from page one

courageous inclusion, and determined service. But the old was buried, has taken sprout, and grown into a much stronger church that will impact the world (not just the Brecksville area) for Christ.

In order to continue the work of rethinking what it means to be Brecksville United Methodist Church, we would like your input. Enclosed you will find a survey that will help us understand how we can continue to grow into the church of 2021 and beyond.

I'm excited to be on this journey with you and am excited to see what we grow into together! Happy Spring!

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

— bumc — MISSIONS & OUTREACH UPDATE

Thank you very much for blessing the **Jesus Closet at Marymount Hospital** – you provided clothing for many and will be appreciated beyond words.

M&O is in the planning stages of several varied opportunities to make a difference, with SAFE COVID SOCIAL DISTANCING FELLOWSHIP while providing help for others, beginning in May – more details to come as we finalize the plans!

We are pleased to be working with the church's Inclusion Task Force in support of the LGBT Community Center of Cleveland in a couple of different ways. M&O has voted to donate \$1000 to support the center with the June 5 Pride Ride. As a reconciling church, we are asking you to partner with us and **consider donating to the Refuge Program of The LGBT Community Center of Cleveland**. This program helps people who identify as LGBT and have come to the US, because their safety was in jeopardy in their home country. The refuge program launched last year, and we are on the ground floor partnering with The Center to continue this program. Eventually we hope to be able to have a relationship with the participants and help get them established in the community. This may include locating household furnishings, etc. If you choose to donate through our online giving portal, please choose the "Missions" fund code and include "LGBT Center" in the gift description. We will collect funds through June 6.

Thank you for your support - YOU are very much appreciated!!

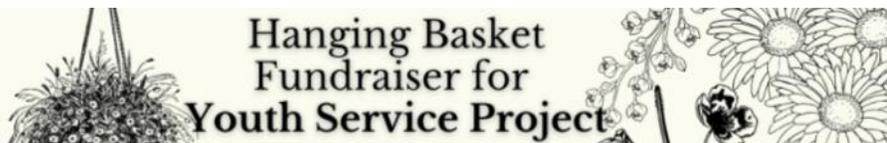
- *The Missions and Outreach Committee*



YSP Hanging Basket Fundraiser is Back! We are so excited to announce that hanging basket vouchers for Kollman’s Greenhouse have returned in support of our fundraising for Youth Service Project. Last year, Kollman’s worked with us to provide an awesome experience, despite complications with Covid-19. You let us know that the flowers were beautiful and visiting Kollman’s was a lovely outing during a time when leaving the house was a real treat. We hope to provide that pleasant escape again this year as Kollman’s is promising lovely baskets and top-notch customer service. The best part is that you are in control and get to choose your own 10” hanging basket from the wide selection right at the greenhouse! **To order, simply fill out the Google Form on our website by April 29** brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/news/read/?ID=4749

If you cannot use the web form, use the paper form below and return it to church by Monday, April 26.

Our Youth Director, Dana Schwendeman, will send you your voucher starting on May 2 - just in time for Mother’s Day. You have until May 30 to redeem your voucher at Kollman’s Greenhouse. We heard many people note how beautiful and long-lasting their flowers were in 2020 and we hope the crop of baskets from this year can bring just as much joy to your home. Every purchase goes directly to funding youth summer missions through Youth Service Project. For more information, please email Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com. Thank you for your support!



Name	
Phone	
Address	
Quantity	Hanging baskets are \$20 each:
Return to church office (checks payable to BUMC) by April 26	



MARCH

Show your care with prayer!

Set aside a little time each week to participate in the Care & Prayer Mail Project! It’s easy! Each week, we surround someone in prayer, and send them mail. Be part of it!

Week of April 4

Ruby Ludwig

10051 Deerfield Ln
Brecksville, OH 44141-3602

Week of April 11

Robin Raybuck

2365 Barnsley Way
Broadview Hts., OH 44147-3674

Week of April 18

Tony & Doris Cipolla

6846 Hidden Lake Trl
Brecksville, OH 44141-3191

Week of April 25

Pat & Bob Butler

77 Plains Rd Apt 223
Milford, CT 06461-2590

Pastor Barbara says, “Be a blessing for those in our church family you may not see on Facebook or at the grocery store. They will be thrilled to hear from you. Thanks for being loving, caring people of Christ!”

***Check back next month
for a new list!***



MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

Share your news with your church family! Contact Melanie:
office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-526-8938

A memorial service for our beloved Joseph Holmes will stream on the church website **Saturday, April 10 at 11 am.** Please join us. *Note that this date is a correction from an earlier issue!*

John Prominski, who joined our church family in 1968, moved on to the church triumphant on March 15. His wife, Pat, had died just last September. We surround their family in prayer as they grieve his loss and celebrate a life well lived.

We also said goodbye to Ruth Bondra, who had been residing at a retirement home in Medina for the past several years, but who had joined our church family in 1952. Ruth's husband, Nick, preceded her in death in 2018—at the age of 100. We remember them in our prayers and send our condolences to their family.

Congratulations to our organist, Sean Brown, who has been recognized with two impressive distinctions in his senior year at St. Ignatius High School. He has been named a National Merit Finalist. Of the 1.6 million students who took the PSAT exam last year, Sean is one of **15,000** to become a finalist. Sean has also reached the highest rank available in Scouts—becoming an Eagle Scout! Great job, Sean!

Beryl Burkle	1	Dale Beaver	12	Ralph Slifcak	22
Doug Holmes	1	Joel Bellone	13	Ryan Petznick	24
Lauren Brinkmann	2	Carri Kenney	13	John Brachna	25
Leanne Davis	2	Kathy Louttit	13	Tate Fowler	25
Sherry Klodnick	3	Alex McMaster	13	Ruth Holmes	25
Julie Kubek	3	Payton Schneider	13	Katie Kiss	25
Emmalyn Sparks	3	Michael Houff	14	Chase Boldt	26
Matthew Agnew	4	Ed Jones	14	Sara Louttit	26
Jessica Zhao Agostine	4	Addie Magee	14	Alison Donze	27
Brad Holmok	4	Vince Marotto	14	Becky Juniper	27
Lianna Meyer	5	Maddie Miller	14	Nancy Kroenke	28
Stella McCrodden	6	Mark Pace	14	Matt Salisbury	28
Mark Moore	7	Matt Nelson	15	Ethan Shah	28
Claire Palmer	7	Jim Neidinger	16	Barb Toman	28
Derek Brinkmann	8	Janine Telischak	16	Mia Baker	29
Dorothy Pliske	8	Gail Huth	18	Bud Engelhardt	29
Donna Eilbeck	10	Ken Wise	18	Nell Taylor	29
Alan Harper	10	Stephanie Roberts	19	Sheri Zakarowsky	29
Avery Petznick	10	Zachary Brachna	20	Barbara Harper	30
Mandy Rozman	10	Judy Burroughs	21	Jen Spieth	30
Hannah Johnson	11	Caitlin Dieringer	21	Bob Wuerth	30



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. Recently, we said prayers of thanks for people like Janine Telischack and Dave Brown, who are serving as co-chairs of the Staff Parish

Relations Committee this year. We are thankful for your willingness to step into this role together—and for all of the people serving on the committee this year, Kim Meyer, Gail Huth, Craig Kotnik and Debbie Watkins. Don Krolikowski has been working with Sharon Judson and the History Task Force on a new project to make a photographic inventory of the church for posterity. We're thankful for the creative and dedicated ways you are preserving the legacy of the church! Lynn Hobzek and Donna Sibits had an idea and ran with it—a puzzle swap, to help us share our love of jigsaw puzzles with one another. Thank you for setting this up for all of us to enjoy! We're thankful for all of the ways each of you love the church and work to help us each stay connected to one another!



PIES PIES PIES – CHERRY PIES – BLUEBERRY PIES – COMING RIGHT UP!!

Yes! The Brecksville United Methodist Women will be making pies this year!! We all missed them last year, they'll be back for Home Days, the last weekend of June, and we'll be making pies even if Home Days doesn't happen. Would you like to learn about the fine art of making a world famous Grandma's Pie? Volunteer in the kitchen in May! Please contact Ruth Herman, 216-780-1828 or rherm4@hotmail.com to learn more.

We will have an order form available in the May issue of this newsletter.

This is the only fund-raiser for the women's mission projects for over a year, so please help support us! Order Forms will be published in the next issue of the *Good Word* and in the weekly e-news.

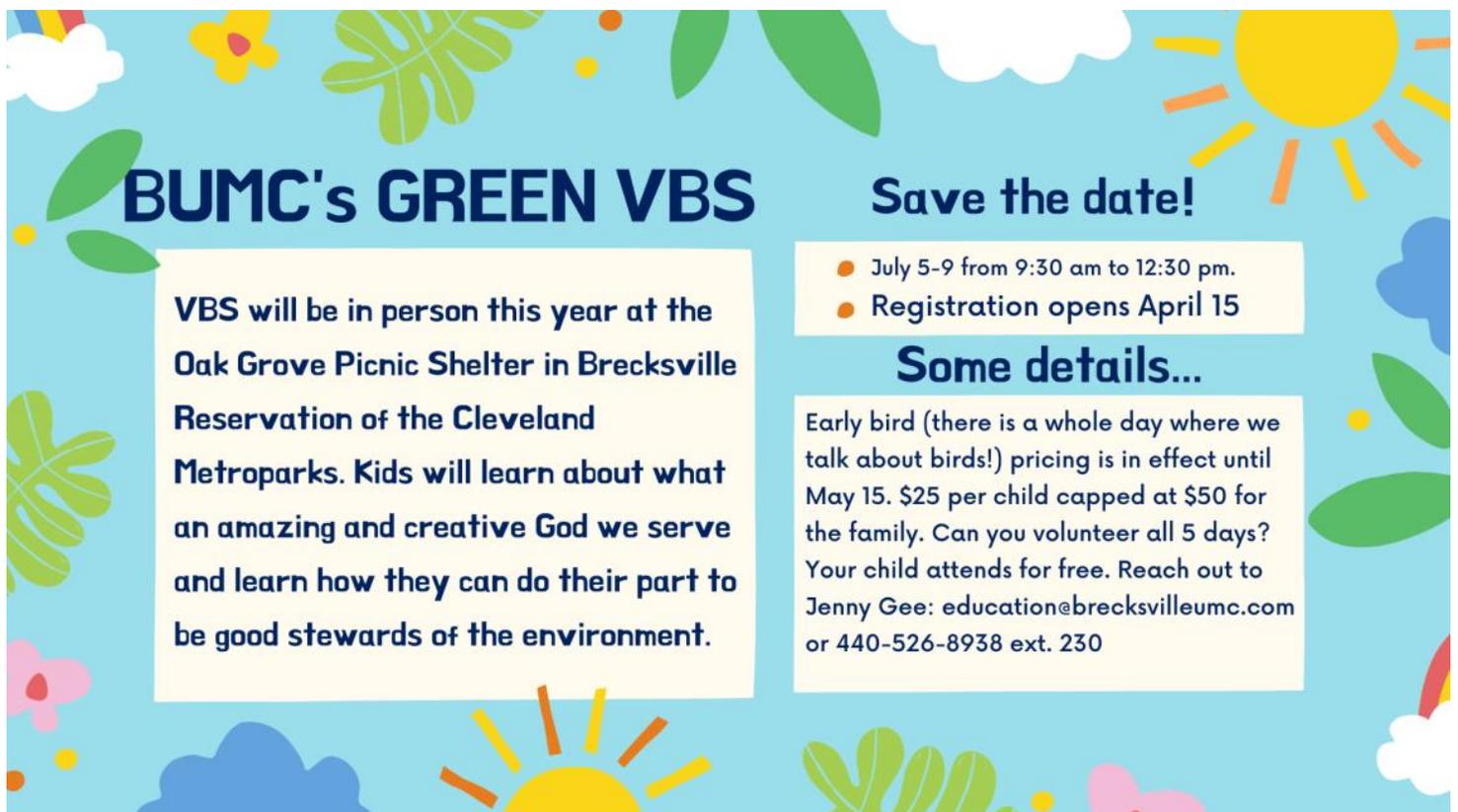
United Methodist Women Sunday will be May 9, 2021 - Mother's Day

Want to support the United Methodist Women with a financial gift? Please mark that on your check or on your envelope.

Digging Back to Uncover Where We Came From

What does it mean to be the church? What part do we play in living out the mission Jesus left for his followers? To understand our role as the church, we have to go back to where it all began. Jesus is very clear about the mission for his followers. Together we will explore post-resurrection scripture passages to better understand that mission, how the early church formed and the disciples' dependency upon the Holy Spirit. We will ask the question: ***"What does all this mean for the church today?"***

Join Jenny Gee on Zoom for short video segments, a focus on scriptural passages, engaging questions that you will discuss within small groups and large group sharing. If you haven't tried Sunday school on Zoom yet... you don't know what you are missing! Plan to join us beginning April 11 at 10:30 am



BUMC's GREEN VBS

VBS will be in person this year at the Oak Grove Picnic Shelter in Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Kids will learn about what an amazing and creative God we serve and learn how they can do their part to be good stewards of the environment.

Save the date!

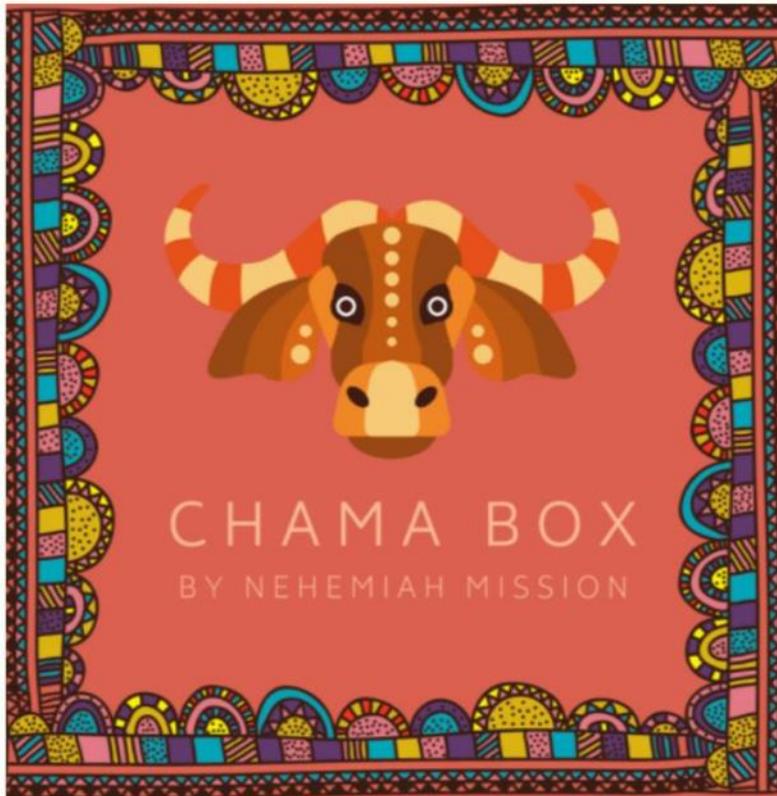
- July 5-9 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.
- Registration opens April 15

Some details...

Early bird (there is a whole day where we talk about birds!) pricing is in effect until May 15. \$25 per child capped at \$50 for the family. Can you volunteer all 5 days? Your child attends for free. Reach out to Jenny Gee: education@breckvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938 ext. 230

CHAMA BOX

The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland is still holding their annual fundraiser dinner; this year it's from the comfort of your own dining room.



Celebrate Nehemiah's 17th Year with a Chama Box (Swahili for Party)

Your donation will help bolster and support programs including feeding and distributing supplies to the homeless through Luke 3:11; mentoring, tutoring, and loving African refugee children through #Corner65; serving community meals through Bread on Bridge; and restoring, painting, and cleaning homes through Sowing Seeds of Hope.

Go to
<https://www.nehemiahmission.org/chama-box-annual-fundraiser> to order your box today.

EACH CHAMA BOX
(\$100) WILL INCLUDE:

**FURAH! A TASTE OF HOME
BY ESTER NGEMBA**
CONGOLESE SEASONINGS AND
RECIPES

**KITCHEN ESSENTIALS FROM
BUTTERPEAR**
HANDCRAFTED IN AFRICA, SOLD BY A
SMALL BUSINESS IN OHIO

TWO SISTER'S CHOCOLATE
HOMEMADE, DELICIOUS DESSERT
FROM A LOCAL BUSINESS

THE "YEAR IN REVIEW"
LEARN ABOUT NEHEMIAH'S VARIOUS
MINISTRIES AND HEAR A MESSAGE
FROM BISHOP TRACY MALONE

AND MORE

LEARN ABOUT THE #CORNER65
SOCCER TEAM, FIND OUT WHO WAS
NAMED THE 2020 VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR, AND MORE!

PREMIUM CHAMA BOX
(\$150) ALSO INCLUDES:

**HANDCRAFTED WOOD
CARVING**
MADE BY ARTISTS IN WEST AFRICA

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 Facebook Check In	2 7 pm Good Friday Worship Service— online	3 9 Visioning Team 8 Easter Vigil Bread Ministry Hastings
4 EASTER 7 Sunrise Service on the Lawn 9 Worship Online with communion 10 Coffee Hour 11 Kids Connect	5 Easter Monday Church Office Closed	6 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina	7 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	8 9:30 Facebook Check In 7 Inclusion Task Force	9	10 Bread Ministry Kotnik 11 Joe Holmes Memorial Service
11 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Class? 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group	12 8:30—12 Church Office Open	13 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina	14 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	15 9:30 Facebook Check In 12 Good Word Deadline VBS Registration Opens!	16 <i>Paper Recycling Bonus Week Begins!</i>	17 Bread Ministry TBD
18 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Class? 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group	19 8:30—12 Church Office Open	20 10 Staff Meeting 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees	21 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	22 9:30 Facebook Check In <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24 Bread Ministry Millers Spring District Conference— online Spring Yard Clean Up
25 9 Worship Online 10 Coffee Hour 10:30 Adult Class? 11 Kids Connect 7 Virtual Youth Group	26 8:30—12 Church Office Open 2:30 History Task Force	27 10 Staff Meeting 7 Lectio Divina 7 Finance	28 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	29 9:30 Facebook Check In <i>Last day for Hanging Basket Orders!</i>	30 9:30 UMW Board Meeting <i>Arbor Day</i>	



Good Friday *Again & Again we find ourselves here.*
April 2 at 7 pm ONLINE

Again and again, we find ourselves at the foot of the cross, at the pit of despair, in the face of death, in the grip of state-sanctioned violence. "Here" is an emotional place. "Here" is grief. "Here" is the reality of sin and brokenness. On Good Friday, we are called to sit in the silence of death, knowing that God is here.

Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 3 at 8 pm ONLINE

Done in collaboration with clergy across The East Ohio Conference, the Easter (Paschal) Vigil proclaims and celebrates the whole of salvation history and Christ's saving work. In this service we experience the passage from slavery to freedom, from sin to salvation, and from death to life. This service has both historic and symbolic roots in the Jewish Passover, so many images are from the Old Testament and many analogies are experienced in Christ. It is a wonderful way to remember the movements of Christ from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday.



Easter Sunday *Again & Again The Sun Rises*
Sunday, April 4

- 7 am Sunrise Service on the lawn
- 9 am Service Online with the Brecksville UMC Easter Orchestra and Chorus

According to Mark, on the first day of the week, the women rise with the sun and buy spices to anoint Jesus' body. They are shocked to find the tomb empty, and leave in fear and terror. Mark's resurrection story is less triumphant than the other Gospel testimonies (as scholars believe the remainder of Mark's gospel was a later addition). In Mark's version, we are reminded that Easter comes to us, again and again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again and again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough.

[Brecksvilleumc.com/streaming](https://brecksvilleumc.com/streaming)

[Facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC/Live](https://facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC/Live)

YouTube.com/c/BrecksvilleUInitedMethodistChurch





Bread on Bridge Tuesdays is looking for volunteers

“The Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland rebuilds the lives and homes of the physically and fiscally challenged in order to sow seeds of hope”. Nehemiah is located at 6515 Bridge Ave in Cleveland.

“Every Tuesday evening, we gather from approximately 5:15pm – 6:45pm. All are invited to drop in to share in conversation, scripture, prayer and song in a ‘cafe’ setting featuring freshly prepared meals, coffee and desserts. In the summer months we meet outside. Bread on Bridge Tuesdays is about sharing and caring in a multi-cultural and diverse community”.

Pastor Jim Szakacs is looking for a few volunteers to help on Tuesdays. The success and popularity of this program is growing and this summer over 100 participants are expected. People from the community and #Corner65 participants come to share in this experience. “#Corner65 primarily works with the African refugee youth population in Cleveland and provides a safe space for personal growth, life skills development, and mentorship through activities such as basketball, soccer, volleyball, sewing, knitting, urban farming (caring for chickens and gardening), baking, cooking (utilizing yield from our garden), and art. #Corner65 volunteers and mentors help this young refugee community adjust to life in America and develop a deeper understanding of American culture”. More hands are needed to keep this program running smoothly. Can you spare a few hours on Tuesdays every week or every other? Individuals, friends and families can volunteer (12 years and older please). The needs are for set-up, serving the food and clean-up. We generally eat outside at picnic tables and due to COVID the food is served in individual containers. The time commitment is from approximately 4:30 pm – 7 pm on Tuesdays. A couple of teams are being formed so there could be a rotation and you wouldn’t have to commit to every Tuesday. There will be a training session and Bread on Bridge begins June 1 and continues into the Fall. Craig and I have been helping at Bread on Bridge for years – Craig plays guitar, I talk with the participants and we share a meal. It has been a very enjoyable, enlightening and rewarding experience. We can’t wait to see our friends again on June 1. If you need more information or are ready to volunteer, please call me, Mary Kotnik, at 330-256-3262. - Mary Kotnik, Missions and Outreach Chairperson

Easter OFFERING

This year’s Easter Offering will support two important projects providing safe housing for people who are working to improve their lives.

Faith Build. Our annual \$5K commitment to Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity’s Faith Build Project helps fund the construction of a new home for a partner family in Cleveland.

Teach*Reach*Bless is an East Ohio Conference initiative to build safe dormitory housing for female students at Africa University. This commitment to the education and wellness of women today means a better Africa tomorrow.

Mark your donation “Easter Offering” or give online onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Easter

What is most
important to you?

(insert answer here)



TAKE THE SURVEY!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/BUMCSpring

Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit
US Postage
Paid
Cleveland, OH
Permit No.
928

Church office visiting hours:

MONDAY 8:30—12:30

WEDNESDAY 3—6

We're working all week!

Reach us by voicemail and email

Monday—Thursday

8:30—4:30 pm

Friday 8:30—12:30 pm



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.