JULY 2021, ISSUE 7 VOL. 11

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



East Ohio Annual Conference 2021 – Christ Alive in Us! Took place June 16-19 in Akron

A Math Lesson from Annual Conference

7-1=6 and 6-1=5

This is the math lesson I learned at Annual Conference this past month. Confused? Let me explain...

There are 7 days in a week. Subtract one for a "day off" and you get 6 days to work. (7-1=6) Until now, this is all the guidance the "higher ups" gave for the structure of a pastor's week. It has been interpreted many ways, most of the time meaning "pastors work 6 days a week."

This year, the "higher ups" recognized that this guidance was incomplete, so Annual Conference voted to amend their instructions. Of the 6 days pastors work, one day is to be used as a sabbath—time away to intentionally renew one's relationship with God. (6-1=5)

This simple math lesson was a revelation to me.

Like many of you, my life drastically slowed down through the pandemic. We didn't go many places or do much, so I didn't really notice the extra hours I was working. Then, as things started opening up and we got vaccinated (woo hoo!) we said "YES!" to all the opportunities to see people again. Now, as we're adding back in all the activities and gatherings, and creating our "new normal," I need to nudge ministry work back into place.

Over the past year, I've worked almost every day, trying to get all the things done (let's be real: ministry is never done!), and haven't allowed myself time away to rest and renew. This is not me complaining—I did it to myself! This past week's math lesson was the reminder I needed to pause, take a deep breath, and realign my life and calendar again, focusing on God first.

All of this is simply ironic, since my August 2019 *Good Word* article was about our need to take sabbath... and how I tend to not be very good at it. So here I am, almost two years later, and I'm going to try again. <u>And I need you all to help keep me</u> <u>accountable</u>. Below is my ideal weekly schedule. If you get an email or text or correspondence from me on a Saturday or Monday (that's not for an emergency) I encourage you to respond with, "Excuse me ma'am! You're not supposed to be working! Peace out!" ...or something similar.

Sundays I'll be worshipping (yay!) and preparing for the week.

Mondays are my sabbath, so I will be out of the office and spending

Continues on next page...



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

Continued from previous page...

time with God (and also my family).

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

Wednesdays I'll be outside the office: working on long-term visioning & planning, and sermon prep.

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

Fridays I'll be out of the office, writing and wrapping things up for the week.

Saturdays are my days off to be with family and to "just be."

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

Someone at Conference this past week asked me how I liked it here at BUMC. My response was, "Oh, I *love* it!" And it's true! I am so very thankful for these past two years and beyond excited to see what the future holds for us. And because I love you, I want to hold you accountable, too.

So I've been meaning to ask...when's the last time you took your sabbath?

Pasta Hill Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work God had been doing; so on the seventh day God rested from all God's work.

Genesis 2: 1-2



There is no better place to connect with our Creator God than in nature. Make a plan to join as we worship without walls, under the pines and alongside the waters in the Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. We will gather in the assigned meeting place, go on a hike to a different location, worship with song, prayer and meditations, then return to our original meeting place for breakfast (for the morning worship services) or s'mores around the grill (for the evening services). Registration is required so we can adequately prepare and purchase enough food. Mark your calendar for these dates in July and August:

Friday, July 9 at 7 pm	Saturday, July 24 at 9 am
Friday, August 6 at 7 pm	Saturday, August 21 at 9 am

Register here <u>https://forms.gle/e8sxTJRpXh4LtYgN9</u> - or contact the office - and we will be in touch regarding the meeting location. Contact Jenny Gee for more information! <u>education@brecksvilleumc.com</u>.





PRE-ORDER A SUB SANDWICH MEAL FOR \$5 OR BRING YOUR OWN. BRING A CARD FOR MALIK!

Come share a summer evening with friends in celebration of Malik Khalfani, who has served as our Director of Music Ministries since 2018 and who will be moving on to complete his Master's Degree at The Ohio State University in the fall. Malik will always be a part of our church family. Let's give him a send off full of love!

The Fellowship Committee is organizing a light meal of sub sandwiches, chips and a cookie for \$5 per person. (If you prefer, you are welcome to bring your own meal.) They'll also be providing plates and napkins, but ask that you bring your own drink. Sign up on Sunday morning or through our online form: <u>https://</u> <u>forms.gle/7GtjvYwVEsfaJebb7</u>. Please RSVP by Sunday, July 4 to ensure you will get a sandwich!

A card box will be set up and you are encouraged to bring a card with thanks and well wishes for Malik. The picnic shelter has lots of picnic tables, but if that's not a comfortable way for you to sit, you may want to bring a chair or picnic blanket.

Worship In the Woods takes place at 7 pm and will depart from the picnic shelter. Plan to join Jenny and friends for a short hike, brief worship service, song and s'mores after the picnic!



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

Wedding bells have been ringing in June! Congratulations to the Lundholm family, as Sean married his bride, Cassidy and to the Culley family as Laina married her groom, Nick. What a joy to celebrate these beautiful milestones!

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Ephesians 4:2-3



Seth Archacki Jerry Bartholomew **Domenic Bellone** Brett Bender **Delaney Hurley** Henry McCrodden Jack McCrodden Derek Ritterbusch Kathleen Koteles **Elizabeth Romance** Sarah Ford Jim Lee Johnny Santora Douglas Geib II Janet Beck Wendy Chenney Tyler Teare **Emily Telischak Kevan Fisher** Jon Wygonski **Kevin Machesky Tracy Scott** Karen Memmer Joan Bloch

1	Dave Lienert	12	Michelle Botzman	22
1	Rus Welch	12	Paul Frank	22
2	Diana Jacob	13	Matthew Mellott	22
2	Claire Leonard	13	Ruth Herman	23
2	Elise Leonard	13	Nathan Olszko	23
2	Betsy Urso	14	Elizabeth Jaszczak	24
2	Jane Whitehead	14	Carl Opatrny	24
2	Grant Barnum	15	Allison Toensing	24
3	Debbie Falko	15	Addison Cave	25
3	Robert Kubicek	15	Lawrence Kaminski	25
4	Bill Neidinger	15	Matthew Manocchio	25
4	Matthew Nurre	16	William Olszko	26
4	Jim Fredrick	17	Carl Rossborough	26
5	Stephanie Ling	17	Laurie Riccardi	27
7	Cara Santora	17	Adaline Knight	28
7	Camille Baker	18	Ruby Ludwig	28
7	Tim Kenney	19	Patricia Frank	29
7	Adriana Sottosanti	19	Janet Patterson	29
8	Wade Hurley	20	Paul Dadas	30
8	Amy Hazelton	21	Rachel Machesky	30
9	Zachary Kardos	21	Laurie Robusto	30
9	Miles Paroda	21	Beth Smith	30
10	Nick Rajkovich	21	Bryan Smith	30
11	Stefan Wygonski	21	Eli Stacher	30



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 <u>rowanel33@gmail.com</u> Or

prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



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 Marla Knight, who has been helping *everywhere!* Marla serves as a church closer, she serves as an usher/

greeter, she has served as liturgist...when she hears the call, Marla says, "I can help!" Kristi Eberhardt and friends were such big helps in organizing our church's participation in the Pride Ride. What a joyful day sharing God's love with the community! We were delighted to have Megan Rohrer worshipping with us on her visit back to the area, and leading the songs for an early worship service. Your beautiful voice is a gift, Megan. Thank you for sharing it with us!



Habitat for Humanity Greater Cleveland reports that the **2021 Faith Build house** is coming along nicely! "The house is starting to look more like a home with the recent work including flooring, railings, and all kinds of trim work including interior, windows, and cabinets. Our homeowner, Kassy, has already completed her volunteer hours—in fact she's done 20 extra! She and her kids Kamari, Jeffery and Kasson, are very excited to soon call the Buckeye neighborhood home."

Our church is partnering with other area churches to provide the funds and labor to make this dream a reality. **Our first work date of 2021 is Saturday, July 24.** We can have four people on our crew and already have two signed up—Jeff Fesler and Jinho Lee (thank you, guys!) Can you help us complete our team? If you are not ready or able to serve on the build team you might consider coming to take photos or provide lunch. (Another church recently grilled out hotdogs and hamburgers for the work crews. How fun is that?)

Volunteers are also needed at the Habitat for Humanity ReStores on July 24 for their Summer Sidewalk Sale. In addition to sales help, they will also be selling hotdogs, pop, and chips during the festivities—another opportunity for some volunteer grill masters! The stores are located on the west side (West 110th Street) and on the east side (North Randal.)

Contact the office to learn more! 440-526-8938.

Brecksville Home Days

July 16—18

It will be a real joy when our community comes together to celebrate Home Days in July! Grandma's won't be selling pies this year during the festivities, but the church will still have a booth at the event (two of them, to be precise!) What will we be doing? Time will tell! If you would like to be part of the planning or if you can be part of the team volunteering at Home Days, please reach out to the church office!



JULY Show your care with prayer!

Thank you for setting aside a little time for the Care & Prayer Mail Project. You may see some of the people on this list regularly — but dropping them a note in the mail is another way to show you care. It's a small gesture that spreads great joy!

Week of July 4 **Don Salsbury** 10825 Snowville Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-3442

Week of July 11 Joann & Harry Fox 8427 Whitewood Rd Brecksville, OH 44141-1529

Week of July 18 Janine Telischak 8436 N Bluff Dr Broadview Hts, OH 44147-3401

Week of July 25 Loretta Timms 9369 Misty Oakes Dr Broadview Hts, OH 44147-3123

Check back next month for a new list!



Pies Thank you to all of the people who made the dough, rolled the dough, and filled the delicious blueberry, and cherry pies. Most of all, though, **THANK YOU RUTH HERMAN** for all the prep, organizing, supervising, etc!! The list of helpers include: Gail Huth, Ann Zupanc, Elinor Rowan, Judy McCrodden, Sandy Crist, Fran McClean, Gail Meyers, Barb Harper, Kathy Dickriede, Marianne Nolan, Jenny Gee, Anastasia Brachna, Lori Rusterholtz, Lynn Hobzek, and Mary Kotnik.



Barb Harper, Elinor Rowan and Ruth Holmes were honored in June.

"All workers were happy to be working together again" said Ruth. "Though we were limited to fewer workers each day, we successfully made 112 pies. We sold out about the same time we finished making the pies! Thanks for everyone's help in supporting UMW's Missions."

Thank you to all of the people who ordered the pies also. Next month, we'll get an update about the funds raised for missions. (Thank you also to **Mary Kotnik** and her team for making the chocolate cake!)

Honoring Our Women It was great to actually SEE many of our members come to the recognition event on June 3rd. We honored **Elinor Rowan, Barb Harper, and Ruth Holmes**. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATED WORK IN UMW!

SEPTEMBER UMW MEETING COMBINED WITH EVENING CIRCLE Come to hear about the Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem Program. BUMC member Ed Gugliucci is devoting his retirement years to working through the courts with kids who may have been abused. Find out more about this program at the UMW meeting, Thursday, September 8 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome! Watch for more details in the August & September newsletters.

JUNE NEEDS FOR RAHAB MINISTRIES

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•	Taro Gi	get	
	Gi	ŕt	
	Ca	rds	

)1.	Paper Towels	

02. Lysol Spray

03. Olive Oil

04. Napkins

05. White Sugar

UMW Evening Circle Donation Drive

For RAHAB Ministry Safe Houses for Women

RAHAB Ministries serves women at risk of human trafficking in greater Akron. They have lost considerable funding and would appreciate our help once again. Please keep the ministry in prayer, and consider donating one of the items listed in the image at left.

Also, Amazon gift cards are always appreciated and are used to purchase items for their minor mentoring center, which will be busier than usual now that school is out.

If you are moved to help, there is a collection tub near the main entry door downstairs for donations. Gift cards can be dropped off in the church office or given to Lynn Hobzek.

Thank you!!



Saturday Evenings from 6:15 to 7 pm

A good old fashioned Hymn Sing happens every Saturday evening in the Chapel of Chippewa Place, the independent living apartment building located next door to the church. Ten to fifteen residents gather at 6:15 to sing beloved songs like *Amazing Grace, Bringing in the Sheaves,* and *Nearer My God To Thee.* At 6:30 pm, there is a short worship service with hymns, scripture and a short meditation. At 7 pm, the service ends.

Churches from around our community take turns leading this service, which is the only opportunity some residents have to worship each week. Brecksville United Methodist Church is one of those churches.

Would you be willing to be part of a team leading a service this summer? If you can lead the hymn sing or are willing to lead the service, please reach out to the church office. All you need is the want to do it, and a heart for older people. We'll show you the way!

Why do we do this? Because *demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors* is one way we grow with God and one another. With determined service, we show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person. Reach out to 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com to learn more!

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK... CONVERSATION CARDS

Pick up a set at church on July 4 - or request an electronic download.

This is a stack of 48 conversation cards (with 4 introductory cards) inspired by the "I've Been Meaning To Ask..." sermon series and designed to help you create deeper connection in conversation.





ALL CHURCH Summer Book Club

This summer, we are reading the book *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation* by Latasha Morrison. A New York Times Best Seller and winner of the Christianity Today Book Award, *Be The Bridge* presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel.

Read the book and choose one or more of the dates below to join others for discussion and prayer, lead by Rev. Kathy Dickriede.

- Sunday, July 11 at 6 pm on the church lawn
- Wednesday, July 14 at 6:30 pm on Zoom
- Sunday, August 22 at 9:30 am at the church

Email or call the office, sign up on Sunday, or **register online** here: https://forms.gle/ p63X4LYgRYfPEFQU8



What is ReachOut? An East Ohio United Methodist Camp designed around service, worship, music, Bible studies and growing closer to Jesus in community. Created by students, it's an incredible camp experience for anyone going into 8th grade through graduating high school seniors. ReachOut has been a staple in the East Ohio for decades and has a volunteer staff passionate about missions, ministry, and connecting with young people. While it typically takes place in beautiful Lakeside, OH, this year's camp will be a virtual experience.

What can I expect at camp? A typical week includes craft time, worship services, sports, swimming, shopping time, relaxation time, group study, overnight missions and lots of other fun activities. Since ReachOut is planned by students, every activity is student-approved and led. Expect to make life-long friends while soaking in the sun and having a great time. Because this year's camp is virtual, it will look a little different, but the spirit of ReachOut will come to individual campers through care packages and online events. Check out our schedule for ReachOut 2021:

- Sunday, July 18 7 pm // Opening Worship Service premieres on YouTube.
- Monday, July 19 7pm // Commissioning Message a special message from one of your PCs and one of our staff
- Tuesday/Wednesday, July 20-21 // **Missions!** What are the ways you can be involved in your local community? Find a way to get involved and share pictures over social media to amplify how the ReachOut love was shared in our communities!
- Thursday, July 22 7pm // Candlewalks Faith testimonies of our current PCs to share with you that evening.
- ReachOut Instagram @reachoutcamp and YouTube channel throughout the week.

How can I register for Reach Out? <u>www.eastohiocamps.campbrainregistration.com</u> (Be sure to select

ReachOut as your camp!)



Why Reach Out? Many campers and staffers have participated summer after summer. They enjoy meeting new people and having new experiences, growing in their faith and investing time in serving others. Dana and Jamie Schwendeman have been on staff for six years and here's why they love being a part of Reach Out:

Dana- "Reach Out is an incredibly special week where I see students transform before my eyes. Sometimes they arrive at camp feeling selfconscious, overwhelmed, homesick, and shy, but by the end of the week they are full of the Holy Spirit and surrounded by their new friends, not wanting to leave. ReachOut isn't just a camp, it's a community of students and adults who want to see the world be changed by the love of Jesus."

Jamie- "I love being a part of the worship experience for ReachOut and spending all week at Lakeside. It's awesome to be able to spend a whole week reflecting on your faith and seeing how that opportunity can make a difference in your life. Growing up, I went to church summer camp and the memories I have from those times are really special to me. I'm so happy to be able to help students make their own camp memories now."

I'm not interested in virtual ReachOut, but in-person camp sounds awesome. How can I be connected for camp next year? If at any time during the year you have questions about ReachOut, please contact Dana (youth@brecksvilleumc.com) to chat about it. ReachOut will be having an in-person *Winter Retreat in early 2022* - a great way to get a better feel for what the week of camp looks like in the summer. Stay tuned for info! In the meantime, check out the camp website at www.reachoutcamp.com.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	2 Fri	Sat
Church office visiting hours 9 — 12 pm Monday through Thursday Reach us by phone or email: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com			1 Mowing— Bloch/ Campbell	2	3 Bread Ministry— Petkovsek	
<i>4</i> 8:30 Worship— Lawn 10 Worship— Sanctuary & Online	5 Church Council Reports Due Today!	6 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina	7 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina Green VBS	8 Mowing— Lundholm	9 5:30 Church Picnic for Malik 7 Worship In the Woods	10 Bread Ministry— Kotnik 10 Bike Fix It Day
11 8:30 Worship— Lawn 10 Worship— Sanctuary & Online 6 <i>Be The Bridge</i> Book Club, Church	12	13 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina 7 Inclusion Task Force	14 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina 6 <i>Be The Bridge</i> Book Club, Zoom	15 Mowing— Auble/ Spencer 7 Missions & Outreach Committee	16	17 Bread Ministry— Brown
Lawn 18 8:30 Worship— Lawn 10 Worship— Sanctuary & Online	19 7 Church Council Meeting	20 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees	21 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	22 Mowing— Brown/ Sendrey 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal	Brecksville 23	Home Days 24 Bread Min Hastings 8:30 Faith Build 2:30 Wedding 7 Worship In the Woods
Home Days	ReachOut Camp—Online					
25 8:30 Worship— Lawn 10 Worship— Sanctuary & Online	26	27 10 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio Divina 7 Finance	28 7:30 Breakfast 10 Lectio Divina	29 Mowing— Campbell/ Bloch	30	31 Bread Ministry— Petkovsek
	Pastor Heidi is on Vacation					
Classroom Antics Tech Camp						



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Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday 9 am — 12 pm 440-526-8938 office@brecksvilleumc.com



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary' 10:00 Worship Online

*Masks Required Inside, Optional Outside

WORSHIP SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE ALL WEEK! WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM/STREAMING FACEBOOK @BRECKSVILLEUMC or YOUTUBE Sermon by phone 440-526-0653 or wherever you get your podcasts!



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.

Christ Alive in Us!

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

East Ohio Annual Conference 2021 – Christ Alive in Us!

By Rick Wolcott*

Bishop Tracy S. Malone presided over the 52nd session of the East Ohio Annual Conference. This year's theme was Christ Alive in Us! and the guiding scripture was Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV): "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The services, celebrations, and business sessions were broadcast live from the John S. Knight Center in Akron June 16-19, 2021. Out of an abundance of care for

participants, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the 624 registered clergy members and the 577 registered lay members viewed conference and voted during it remotely utilizing the services of Data on the Spot (DOTS).

"I know this last year has been extremely challenging. It has been very exhausting, and you have given of yourselves. You have been serving as adaptive spiritual leaders in some amazing transformational ways and I am thankful," Malone said during the Clergy Executive Session. "I am thankful for your leadership. I am thankful for your ministry. I am thankful for your witness because I know it has not been easy. I recognize the demand and the energy required of you, required of us, to lead in these challenging times and it can be overwhelming."

The adaptive ministries of East Ohio Conference pastors, congregations and faith communities were highlighted throughout conference in the form of Christ Alive in Us! videos that focused on creative ministry partnerships, missions, youth, camps, spiritual formation, community outreach, and racial justice.

"Our purpose in sharing these is to connect, equip, support, and celebrate examples of the many ways that Christ is Alive in Us as a community of faith supporting one another," said the Rev. Steven Court, director of Connectional Ministries, whose Council on Ministries directors partnered with the Conference Communications team to produce the videos and model the power of the connection of The United Methodist Church.

View the Annual Conference 2021 Report that includes links to download videos and photos of this year's services, celebrations, and business sessions. Mark your calendars now for Annual Conference 2022: Thursday, June 9 through Saturday, June 11 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron.

*Rick Wolcott is director of Communications for the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church.

VBS HELP NEEDED!

Crafting Supplies and Help Needed for Vacation Bible School!

We are in search of a few things you may have around your house.

- Pop up canopy tents (roughly 10x10 or 12x12)
- Old greeting cards or blank cards
- Plastic grocery bags
- Volunteers to fringe the outer edge of fleece (provided) for tie blankets.
- Volunteers to cut to size and punch holes in flannel backed table cloths (provided).
- A list of snacks to donate will be coming out soon. Find information in the bulletin and through all the usual channels.
- Keep us in your prayers!!

We also need a few more teacher assistants and crew leaders. Vacation Bible School is July 5—9 from 9:30 am—12:30 pm

EMAIL EDUCATION@BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM



giving

is a practical way that you can say "yes" I support the missions and ministries of this church.

- Give securely online open your smart phone camera and scan the QR code above, or visit https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/-/give/now
- Text "GiveBUMC" and your giving amount to 73256
- Mail gifts to Brecksville UMC, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Interested in planned giving or memorial gifts? Please reach out to finance@brecksvilleumc.com