

The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



This will be my first “normal” Easter at BUMC.

That’s right: I came here in July of 2019, so my first Easter was in 2020... after COVID sent us into lockdown and changed everything. My first Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at BUMC were in the Parlor, in what we lovingly called “Studio 65.” And on Easter Sunday, we attached my iPhone to a tripod and soundboard so we could live stream from our beautiful sanctuary. I still remember the bright sun shining in the windows as I led us in Easter worship surrounded by a garden of lilies, hydrangeas, tulips, and daffodils.

Last year, Easter was a bit more “normal,” with our in-person sunrise service on the lawn. *It was a gorgeous, hope-filled morning!* Then we went inside to live stream a service that combined live liturgy and sermon with a pre-recorded orchestra and vocalist Machala Comenschek (you know her!), directed by Malik Khalfani.

This year (fingers crossed and COVID don’t rise) will be my first “normal” Easter at BUMC. Note *normal* is in quotations. Because I think we all know better than to assume it will be just like the “before times” (pre-COVID).

Yes, we’ll dress up in our Easter best, smell the beautiful Easter flowers, and sing the Hallelujah chorus together... just like before. *And oh my heavens, it’s going to be holy and wonderful!*

***“Why do you
look for the
living among
the dead?”***

***He is not here;
he has risen!***

-- Luke 24:5-6.

And yet, I’m sure it’s also going to be different than just a few years ago.

Because *we’re* different than just a few years ago.

We’ve lost some people and gained some people; we live stream our services and worship with people from across the country; and COVID has helped us become more aware of the daily ways in which God brings beauty and life out of death and despair... just like on Easter.

A few weeks ago, during a sermon, I shared that caterpillars, before they transform into butterflies, turn into goo inside their chrysalis. What I didn’t mention, was that studies have shown that *butterflies remember when they were caterpillars*. Even though they have been completely deconstructed and recreated into an entirely different looking insect, they’re not completely different. They bring experiences and memories into their “new life.”

This Easter, for me, is a reminder that this is just one more way that we are like new butterflies. We are in

Continued on next page...

Connect with us!

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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.

many ways a “new” church, and yet we carry with us the history and memories of an established, historical church. The task before us is to discern how we can bring the beauty of “what we’ve always done” and combine it with the new, life-giving things we do now.

When a butterfly emerges from their chrysalis, they struggle for what can seem like *40 years* to break free and spread their wings. But the struggle is part of the process: without it, the butterfly isn’t strong enough to fly away.

That’s where I think we are now: in the struggling-out-of-our-chrysalis part. We’ve lived through the goo of COVID, we have our memories and also the new, and now we’re struggling to “emerge”—to figure out what this “new” looks like.

Ugh.

And yet... Easter is coming.

So we know God will be with us through the entire process, cheering us on, guiding us, and helping us to see *the incredible things we haven’t even imagined yet*.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Easter Offering

This year our Easter offering will go to a local mission and an international mission, recognizing that our neighbors extend across the globe.

Our local mission is the ***Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity***. For the sixth year in a row, we are again committing to be a Faith Build Partner, to build safe, healthy, affordable places to live, play and grow in the Cleveland area. The homes are sold at no profit with zero percent interest mortgages, and minimal down payments and closing costs. Approved homeowners qualify for a monthly housing payment no more than 30% of their monthly income.

As a Faith Build Partner, we commit to giving \$5,000 in 2022, as well as volunteering for four work days in the summer/fall.

Our international mission is ***humanitarian relief to the people of Ukraine***. Along with our prayers for Ukraine, we know they also need our financial assistance. We will give through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), providing direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Both missions speak to our value of ***Determined Service***, and showing God’s love for others by meeting the needs for the whole person. When you designate your giving as “Easter Offering,” it will be split evenly between these two missions.

Give securely online with this link: <https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/Easter>



Palm Sunday—*Even The Stones Cry Out*—April 10 at 8:30 and 10 am
Kids Lead Worship – Wave those palms, shake your tambourine and throw your cloak in the road! Jesus is riding through town and he knows you and sees your heart. What a time to celebrate! Kids will help us to see what all the excitement was about that day that Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. They will be with us, leading and guiding at both services.

Maundy Thursday—*Take Off Your Shoes*—April 14 at 7 pm
 In a room full to the brim with emotion, Jesus offers a tender, loving, and humble goodbye, stooping low to wash and caress his disciples' feet. Like the water splashing within the washbasin, his actions ripple out: "Go and do likewise. Just as I have loved you, love one another." Allow yourself to be filled to the brim so you can go out and fill others too.

Good Friday—*A Cup of Sorrow*—April 15 at 7 pm
 On this Good Friday, we grieve the violence of humanity. In John's account of Jesus' death, Jesus' final words are: "I am thirsty. . . it is finished." He is offered a jar full of sour wine as he takes his final breaths. And yet, even here, God's love is full, poured out, self-emptied. Even in his last moments, Jesus is overflowing with truth and the fullness of the human experience. God embodies the fullness of pain and deep sorrow. And so, in the silence of this day, let us, too, sit in the fullness of this cup of sorrow.

Easter Sunday—*An Expansive Life*—April 17 at 7, 8:30 and 10 am
 How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?

7 am Easter Sunrise Service—Come as you are and dress for the weather! Join us on the church lawn as we greet the rising sun and celebrate our risen Lord!

8:30 am Easter Service—The Sanctuary will fill with songs of celebration from the choir, brass and strings. The Wiggle Room is open from 8 am until 11 this Sunday.

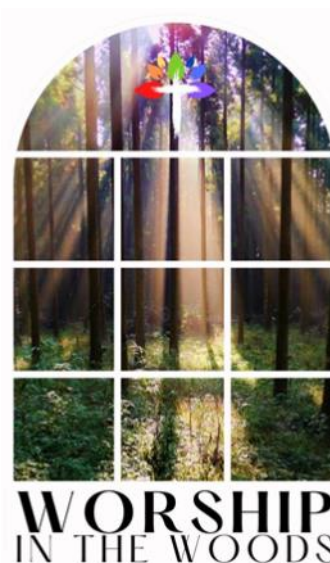
10 am Easter Service—The Worship Band leads us in songs of hallelujah! We will have our Children's Moment and Sprouts, but no Education hour.

Joyful Gathering Photo Booth! Grab your family and your smart phone and snap an Easter pic at our photo booth!



Worship On the Lawn returns April 24

What better way to celebrate the Festival of God's Creation than by worshipping in the open air? As the weather permits, we'll hold our 8:30 worship service on the church lawn this spring. Bundle up and fill your spirit. See you on the lawn!



Friday, May 27 at the Meadows Picnic Area at 7pm. Join us for a peaceful walk within God's amazing creation and a short worship service with prayer and song. We will return to the shelter for s'mores and good conversation. Help us prepare—please register to let us know you're coming! <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>



HONEST WORSHIP

Communion Every Sunday at the Early Service

Do you know that we celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at the 8:30 am worship service? Throughout the season of Lent, we have been coming forward to receive the elements. As with all of our communion services, the bread and juice are gluten free, and the table is open to all.



Communion Services at Chippewa Place

Beginning in April, Rev. Barbara Bartholomew will be leading a service of Holy Communion at Chippewa Place on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 pm.



Branching Out In Service

The grounds around the church are in need of some loving care! How can you help?

Join the mowing team! Each week, teams of at least two mow and trim the church grounds.

Adopt-a-flower bed! The saints who came before us left us beautiful garden all around the building. If you enjoy tending to plants and flowers, consider adopting one of these beds to weed and care for throughout the growing season this year.

Reach out to Trustees@brecksvilleumc.com to learn more!

Meet the Sunday Morning Task Force

On March 1, our Sunday Morning Task Force met for the first time. We centered ourselves for the task ahead, and acknowledged the importance of balancing our current needs and wants with creating space for those who are not yet here.

The majority of our time was spent sharing our personal definitions of *honest worship*. The Vision Team defined honest worship as “*inviting everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically: heart, mind, soul, and body.*” That value is demonstrated by

- Coming as you are, in the messiness of life to wrestle with the questions of faith.
- Encountering God through different forms of worship opportunities.
- Encouraging everyone to contribute in our worship.

And yet, we know that *honest worship* means something different to each of us. Listening to each person share their definition of *honest worship* was nothing short of a holy moment: to hear the importance of worship and this faith community to peoples’ faith journeys; how being welcomed as their authentic selves helped them feel unconditionally loved by God; and how having space to ask the big questions of faith together gave them hope.

Then we turned to listing all the many things we must consider when planning a Sunday morning schedule. What a long and somewhat overwhelming list! We recognized with deeper significance how challenging it will be to create something that will suit the needs and desires of most (we know we’re not going to be able to please all!) And yet, by grounding ourselves in our value of *honest worship*, we felt up to the task... with God’s guidance.

We will meet again at the beginning of April to talk through the results of the survey we all took in March and begin brainstorming. I ask that you pray for our team members individually and as a group: for God’s wisdom and discernment in the weeks to come.

Here are the members of our Sunday Morning Task Force:

Bob Bloch	Ruth McDonel
Machala Comenschek	Elinor Rowan
Craig Czarnota	Tracy Scott
Jenny Gee	Jamie Schwendeman
Marla Knight	Jessica Vastartis
Don Krolikowski	Heidi Welch
Kathy Louttit	

- by Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

On Easter morning, our sanctuary will fill with blooming plants whose beauty cries out, “Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!” ***Thank you for helping to make this possible!*** Please complete this form and return it to the office by April 3. If you prefer to order online, visit <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>



Use this form to order your plants—or order online - **by Sunday, April 3**. Your donation blesses the congregation on Easter and your family following the services. Flowers will be available to pick up after the 10 o'clock service on Easter Sunday. You can also donate a plant to a homebound church member. Please call the office with questions: 440-526-8938

Your contact information goes here!

Name
Phone/Email
Address

Quantity Plant

_____ Bulb Garden \$13
_____ Tulip - Pink \$8
_____ Tulip - Red \$8
_____ Tulip - Purple \$8
_____ Lily - White \$8
_____ Daffodil - Yellow \$8

Quantity Plant

_____ Hydrangea - Pink \$13
_____ Hydrangea - Blue \$13
_____ Hydrangea, lg - White \$16
_____ Azalea - White \$13
_____ Azalea - Pink \$13
_____ Azalea - Pink/White \$13

Total number of plants ordered _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Honorariums will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. How would you like yours to read? *i.e. In memory of Dorteia Gilger, from her family. In honor of our parents, from Melanie & Jim Smith or To the glory of God.*

Return this order form to BUMC, 65 Public Sq,
Brecksville OH 44141. Checks payable to
"BUMC" or pay securely online at onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/FLOWERS

Will you pick up or donate?

☐ I will pick up after 4/17
☐ Donate this plant:

Easter Flower Trivia

- A gift of a bunch of **daffodils** is said to ensure happiness for the receiver. As early spring bloomers, daffodils represent the arrival of new life. In England, they're known as "Lent lilies" because they've long been associated with Lent.
- Did you ever wonder how **Easter lilies** got their name? Their trumpet shape is said to be symbolic of a trumpet sounding the message that Jesus has risen and their white color the purity of Christ.
- **Tulips** also remind us of rebirth, as they're among the first flowers to emerge from winter dormancy. They are said to represent love, belief and forgiveness. Their shape and vibrant colors resemble an Easter egg, too.
- As an Easter gift, **hydrangeas** represent gratitude and understanding, by tradition. That's a lovely gift!
- **Azaleas** are among the earliest spring blooming shrubs—and the only plant on this list that is not a bulb. For Easter, they are symbols of temperance, moderation and love.

About the smell... Many people are sensitive to strong scents. Several years ago, we stopped including the very fragrant hyacinth in our Easter Flower display, and we remove the stamens from our lilies to reduce their scent. Our aim is to always be a safe space for those with sensory sensitivity!



DETERMINED SERVICE

*Send me, send me to the city, dear Lord.
Use me to do things that folks can't afford.
I'll be your hands, Lord; you be my heart.
Send me to the city, I'll do my part!*

7 Ways You Can Help

- Like the [Nehemiah Mission Facebook](#) page - and share posts!
- Support sewing classes by donating fabric and notions.
- Participate in the Women's Day Potluck and celebration May 7.
- Sew curtains (at home from a pattern) for refugee housing.
- Help with cleaning and organizing closets and spaces at the mission.
- Help plant and tend the community garden.
- Donate financial support.
- Pray for the work of Nehemiah Mission and the lives they touch!



THANK YOU, BUMC!

The Mission Committee challenged us to raise \$1000, with the promise that they would match that amount, dollar for dollar. **YOU DELIVERED!** Another matching donor stepped up, and ***we raised a total of \$4341 in support of Nehemiah Mission!***

These funds will help with immediate needs, including upgrades to the sanctuary and new parlor space, garden cleanup and build, and community outreach.

What's Nehemiah Mission, and what in the world is going on there? In March two groups from our church attended breakfast presentations there to find out! We learned that this dynamic outreach program, housed in one of Cleveland's near-downtown, multi-ethnic neighborhoods (at the corner of W65th and Bridge) has been reaching out into all corners of Cleveland since 2004.

We learned about the history of the mission from Jan Yandell, one of its founders, then learned about its present and future from current Programming Executive Director, Alison Klockner and Missions Programming Director, Blair Porter. In her talk, Blair Porter reminded us that God is in the midst of all of the work through Nehemiah Mission. We are not bringing God to Cleveland. God is already here.

Nehemiah Mission is a community center where Christ is felt and all are welcome. Afterschool programs are held for kids attending the school next door, weekly "Bread on Bridge" meals are served for the community, and an African church congregation worships in their sanctuary on Sundays. Sewing classes, a mother's group, and book clubs are offered and Nehemiah's community garden feeds the neighborhood. A fledgling 4H Club will soon teach kids about raising chickens and rabbits. God is in the midst of all of it!

From October through March of this year, Nehemiah Mission provided temporary housing for Afghan and African Refugees. These newcomers to Cleveland live on-site at the Mission until permanent housing can be secured by US Together, a Cleveland based refugee resettlement agency. Nehemiah Mission continues to support these families as they transition into life in the United States.

Nehemiah Mission is committed to works which are transformational, not transactional. Lois Arnold, founder of A Life Of Hope Outreach and a resident of the community, is working with Nehemiah to get resources directly to those without shelter, food, and clothing. Other partner organizations include The City Mission, Laura's Home, Habitat for Humanity, and Trials for Hope. By joining forces and combining resources God's work will be multiplied.

This summer proves to be a productive one, with church mission teams committing to week-long projects like completing minor home repairs, painting, yard work, and feeding and distributing supplies to those experiencing homelessness. Teams also work with Nehemiah Mission Youth Group - tutoring, mentoring, and running activities for the kids. There are only a few dates left!

We encourage you to enter this Mission Field as a group, an individual, or a family...to be the hands and feet that make a difference... to provide opportunities to be in *Determined Service together*. Will you be someone who responds with your time and energy? - Submitted by Kathy Auble, Missions & Outreach Committee



COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

Number Your Days

Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

- Psalm 90:12 NIV



Pride Parade 2021

Numbering our days...God tells us that all of our days are important. But as we all know, some will be remembered, others forgotten. Days that are important to us are personal: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and weddings. Some are joyful, others sad. We remember them with happy or heavy hearts. Numbering our days includes remembering what happened in our lives

or communities on specific days. If we are to gain a heart of wisdom, we must pause and pray on these days, that God would teach us how precious time is.

This article highlights dates important to the LGBTQIA+ community, including anniversaries, events, dates and legislation. As we seek a more inclusive and loving world, it's important to celebrate the positive and try to change the negative. I will start with 2 upcoming fun and positive events:

- **Saturday, June 4, 2022 - Pride in the CLE.** After a Covid hiatus, this LGBT Center of Cleveland sponsored parade returns. Participants walk or ride bikes or scooters on the 1 mile route (no cars allowed), ending at Malls B & C with fun activities and entertainment planned. If you'd like to help represent our church at the event, and spreading the word of God's inclusive love, please reach out (inclusion@brecksvilleumc.com) before May 23. Check out the LGBT Center's website (LGBTcleveland.org) for more information about the event.
- **Saturday, October 8, 2022 - Pride Ride.** We participated last year, with decorated vehicles driving a route in downtown Cleveland, and are organizing a caravan from BUMC again this year for this fun, very positive event. Will you join us?

Some other dates of note are listed in the side bar to the right. This is only a partial list (and has been greatly abbreviated to fit in this space!) It's worthwhile to take some time to research more on your own.

Our calendars can feel like they fill up too quickly or remain empty for too long. Trust and believe that God already has all of your days planned. We need to see each day as special, remembering that all of God's children should feel well loved. - *Deanne Kloss, Inclusion Task*

Force

Some dates important to the LGBTQIA+ community in 2022

4/8 - National Day of Silence, a student led event. Participants take a vow of silence to highlight discrimination.

May 11, 2014 - BUMC takes a formal vote to become a reconciling congregation, a statement of welcome for all people from all walks of life ...especially those of the LGBT community

5/17 - International Day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia

June - Pride Month celebrates equality with celebrations and Pride Parades nationwide

October - LGBTQIA + History Month celebrates contributions to communities

10/11 - National Coming Out Day

10/20 - Spirit Day (anti-bullying). Wear purple to support LGBTQIA+ youth

11/18 - International Stand Up to Bullying Day



LGBTQIA+ Ally 101 Training

April 19, 6-8pm, online

Our Inclusion Task Force has partnered with the Trevor Project to bring this training to Brecksville. All are welcome! Invite your friends!

Sign up today!

<https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Dine & Donate - Looking for a reason to go out to eat? On Tuesday, April 19, your meal at Creekside Restaurant (8803 Brecksville Road in Brecksville) supports UMW Missions. Just clip the coupon below and present it to your server or cashier when you dine in or pick up a “to-go” order.

Dine & Donate for Brecksville UMW

Round up a group of friends and eat lunch, dinner or carryout for a good cause — United Methodist Women's mission projects!

Where: Creekside Restaurant, 8803 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

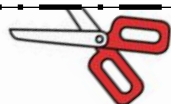
When: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 - Anytime between 11 am & 9 pm

What: Give your server this flyer and 20% of your bill (excluding alcohol, tax & gratuity) will be donated to the Brecksville United Methodist Women mission fund, which helps women and children. A flyer is necessary for each bill. *Carryout is included!* Menu available at www.creeksiderestaurant.com or call 440-546-0555.

PRESENT THIS COUPON TO YOUR SERVER—OR AT PICKUP

RESTAURANT & BAR

Creekside



BEWARE OF SCAMS!

Brecksville Police Detective, Brian Scabbo, will be the featured speaker at the Brecksville United Methodist Women's next meeting, **Thursday April 7**. Learn how you can protect yourself from identity theft and scams. Come at 9:30 a.m. to socialize. Presentation begins at 10 am. These are very important topics in today's world.

****Mark your calendar for May 5, a presentation from the Garden Club!*

Your support is needed. *The United Methodist Women Missions Fund* contributes to organizations serving women and children. Some examples are Brookside Center, Church Women United, Flat Rock Home, Henderson Settlement, Nehemiah Mission, Ohio Guidestone, West Side Community House, and RAHAB Ministries. When you pledge to the Brecksville United Methodist Women, you are supporting efforts to enrich the lives of women and children locally and around the world.

As we have not been able to have our traditional fundraisers during the pandemic, our mission fund is depleted, but the needs of the community are still great.

Consider making a one time contribution or a recurring gift in support this work. ALL gifts are welcome—you do not need to be a member, or a woman, to contribute! The Brecksville United Methodist women have a long tradition at Brecksville United Methodist Church. Your support will help our good work to continue into the future.

*Checks payable to Brecksville **UMW** (United Methodist Women.)*

YES! I support the work of Brecksville United Methodist Women

Name:

Address:

Gift Amount:

Please return your gift to the church office, or to UMW treasurer, Fran McClean.



APRIL

Show your care with prayer!

April showers bring May flowers, or so the saying goes. Cheer someone up on a rainy day by letting them know that you care, and that you said a prayer of thanks for them. Here are four friends who would be happy to hear from you this month:

Week of April 3

Bob Tschannen

200 Laurel Lake Drive
Crowne Center
Hudson, OH 44236

Week of April 10

Phyllis Phillips

7005 Stadium Dr Apt 106
Brecksville, OH 44141-1895

Week of April 17

Barbara Ramundo

9292 Oxford Trl
Brecksville, OH 44141-2500

Week of April 24

Gladys Smith

7005 Stadium Dr Apt 408
Brecksville, OH 44141-1887

Do you know someone who would appreciate being on the list? Contact Pastor Barbara!

Check back next month for a new list!

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



Each week at Staff Meeting we celebrate “God Moments” and lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Kristy Becerra, at Weldon PC, who went out of her way to deliver the digital copy of our VHS tapes to church so we would have them in time for our

matinee in February. Thank you, Kristy, for making this joyful gathering possible! Sunday morning worship is possible with the help of people like Michelle Botzman, Kim Petro, Jim Smith, and Deanne Kloss who stepped up at the last minute to take over Jenny and George Gee’s parts in worship and learning when George’s mother died. We’re thankful for you for stepping out of your comfort zones to help! The spirit of hospitality is alive in this place, and Mary Kotnik is part of the reason for that. When we were short of ushers one recent Sunday, she said, “I can help!” and brought a warm welcome for everyone who came to church that day. Thank you, Mary! And Kristi Eberhardt, who is so good at leading conversations, and lead our Lenten book discussion at the 11 o’clock education hour for adults on March 20. We appreciate your insight and wisdom, Kristi. We’re thankful for each of you, named and unnamed, and all the ways you share God’s love!



LIFELONG LEARNING

Spiritual Practices

Sundays at 9:15 in the Chapel.

Join your church friends and learn some different ways to connect with God in prayer. Our schedule for April is a little different. We will meet in person on April 3 and 24 to learn about praying in color and gratitude prayers. On April 10, the Labyrinth will be set up in the Chapel instead of Fellowship Hall and you are encouraged to use the information from our March 6 class to make that experience extra meaningful. (If you missed March 6 and would like a quick tutorial, reach out to Jenny.) We will not meet on Easter Sunday.

Continuing the Conversations

Sundays at 11 am

We're creating space to talk about Sunday's sermons in April and May, and recognizing some observances unique to the UMC and to our church. Let's keep the conversation going!

- Join Jenny on April 24 to learn more about The Festival of God's Creation and how we can be good stewards of God's amazing planet.
- May 1 is Native American Ministries Sunday, one of the UMC's six special Sundays. What's that? Let's talk about it with Rev. Kathy Dickriede
- On May 15, we recognize our church's anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation on May 11, 2014. What does that mean? Join the discussion at 11 am.



Hanging Baskets for Youth Missions

We are so excited to announce that we will once again be selling hanging basket vouchers for Kollman's Greenhouse as a part of our ongoing fundraising for Youth Missions. The best part about our voucher sale 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, fill out the Google Form on our website (starting April 10) and Dana will send you your voucher starting on May 1 (just in time for Mother's Day). You have until May 27 to redeem your voucher at Kollman's Greenhouse.

We heard many people note how beautiful and long-lasting their flowers were in 2021 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 at Brecksville United Methodist.

For more information, please email Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com. Thank you for your continued support!



You are so loved!

Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

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

www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Every Tuesday at 1:30, Pastor Barbara leads a communion service at Chippewa Place			1 Last day to sign up for Camp Wanake Work Day	2
3 Fifth Lent Labyrinth in FH 8:30 Worship 915 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 5 All Youth Dinner 6:45 Sacred Rhythms	4 10:30 Lectio Divina	5 10 Worship Planning Mtg 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio Divina 7 SPR, Parlor	6 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study 7 Sunday Morning Task Force	7  9:30 UMW Meeting 9:30 FB Live! 6:30 Choir 8 Band	8	 Meet at the church at 7:45 to caravan!
10 Palm Sunday Labyrinth in FH 8:30 Worship 915 Spiritual Practices 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 5 Youth Group 6:45 Sacred Rhythms	11 10:30 Lectio Divina	12 10 Worship Planning Mtg 10:30 Staff 12 Parents Reconciling Network 7 Lectio Divina 7 Inclusion Task	13 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study Church Council Reports due next week!	14  9:30/10 Asbury Bremeth 9:30 FB Live! 7 Maundy Thursday Worship Service	15 Paper Recycling Bonus Week Begins! 7 Good Friday Worship Service	16
17 Easter 7 Sunrise Service 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 	18 Easter Monday, Church Offices Closed	19 UMW Dine & Donate 10 Worship Mtg 10 Stitch n Time 10:30 Staff 6 Trevor Project 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees	20 6:30 Breakfast 7 Sunday Morning Task Force Last day of Recycling Bonus Week!	21  Last day to submit newsletter info! 9:30 FB Live! 6:30 Choir 8 Band 	22	23
24 Festival of God's Creation 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 915 Spiritual Practice 10 Worship 11 Education Hour 5 Youth Group	25 10:30 Lectio Divina	26 10 Worship Mtg 10 Stitch n Time 10:30 Staff 6 Trevor Project 7 Lectio Divina 7 Finance	27 6:30 Breakfast 7 Church Council Meeting	28  9:30 FB Live! 10 Newsletter Production Party 6:30 Choir 8 Band	29	30

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:30 am — 2:30 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com



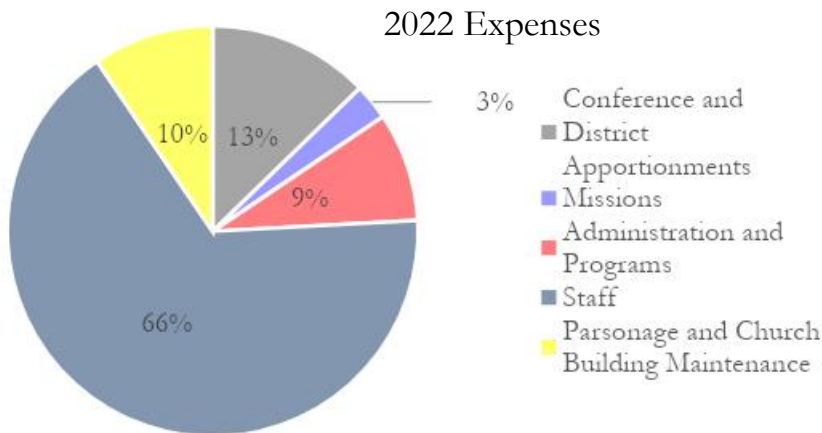
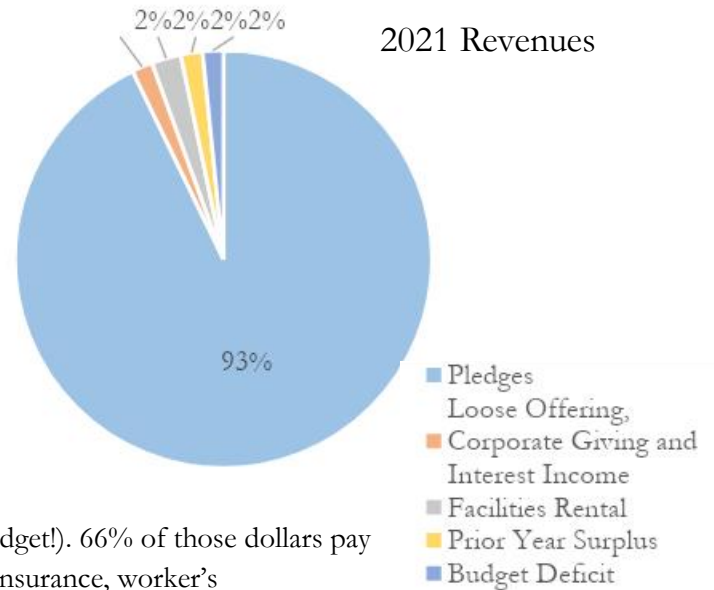
Open Doors.
*Welcoming all
of God's children.*

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.

Finance Recap

We ended 2021 within 1% of our goal! It is evident that you continue to keep BUMC in your hearts and minds since 93% of our revenue comes from our congregation! We were very fortunate to have a surplus amount from 2020 that we utilized in 2021 for 2% of our budget. Other revenue comes in throughout the year from renting our facilities to various groups in our community, Corporate Gift Matching, any Loose Offerings received during services and Interest Income we make on our financial accounts.

It took us \$591,800 to operate the church in 2021 (that's a big budget!). 66% of those dollars pay for the Staff. This amount includes salaries paid, as well medical insurance, worker's compensation, pension and continuing education. 9% of our budget went to maintaining our building and parsonage inside and out, while 13% paid our Conference and District Apportionments. 3% was allocated to our Missions Committee and 9% paid for our Church Administration and Programs including Music, Education, and Youth.



Looking ahead in 2022

Our pledges are UP! We have 132 pledges in for this year, which is 12 more than we received last year. 27 of these are new pledges. WOW! You also gave 56 pledges to the Planned Expense Fund and 1 pledge to the Missions Committee. The Finance Committee is excited to see all that our church will accomplish in 2022 with these funds!

-Becky Paroda, Finance Manager on behalf of the Finance Committee

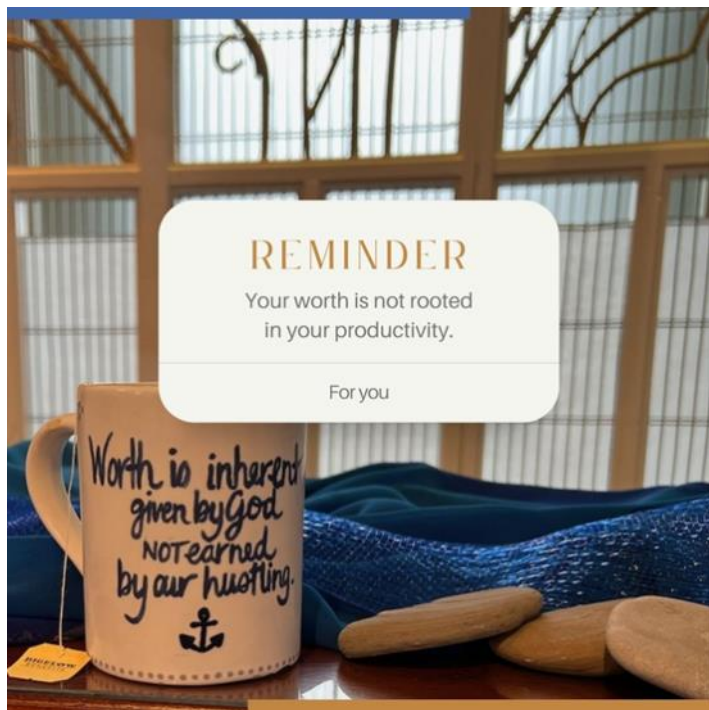
Any questions on this information? I would be happy to help! Please email me at finance@brecksvilleumc.com.



Day of Service at Camp Wanake

Saturday, April 9, 2022. Meet at church at 7:45 am.

This mission event is for all ages. Families and kids are highly encouraged to come! Serve as a family, serve with friends, or come by yourself. Together, we'll help prepare this summer camp for the 2022 season. There's no cost and lunch is provided by Camp Wanake as a thank you! Have tools to bring? Chop saws, circular saws, power drills, etc. would be helpful. Interested in a specific project, or have a special skill? Let us know! Register by April 1 so the camp can plan for lunch! <https://linktr.ee/BrecksvilleUMC>



Self Care Corner

Pastor Heidi's message on March 20 was titled "You Are Worthy," a meditation on Luke 13:1-9, Jesus' parable of the fig tree which invites us to unpack the source of our worth in a system and society that often measures worthiness by commerce, production, output, success, status, achievement, ethnicity, or gender identity. We might ask, "Can the fig tree have worth even if it never produces any figs?" What does that mean for us if the answer is "yes"?

Our Lenten prayer cards for the week were all reminders the God wants us take care of ourselves:

- You are worthy of Sabbath time.
- Your worth is not rooted in your productivity.
- You are worthy of love and belonging.
- You are not a waste of time or resources
- You are allowed to make mistakes.
- You were made in the image of God.
- Your worth comes from God, who will never stop loving you!

"Holy God, I often feel like I am running a race with no off ramp. I don't know how to allow myself space and time to stop. Remind me that the world will keep spinning even if I rest. Remind me that I am worthy of time for myself. Amen."



Asking the Questions

Will attending a one-hour meeting once a month end racism in the world? Nope.

Can making time to tend to your spirit, build relationships, learn new things, ask uncomfortable questions, and imagine the possibilities for a more inclusive community make a positive change in your life? Absolutely.

Pastor Clark used to say that if we each just made a positive change in the three feet around us, we would change the world.

But to do this, we will need new tools, new ways of thinking and relating to one another so that we may all heal.

The value of courageous inclusion takes practice. To whole-heartedly welcome ALL people, we must learn to see ourselves and others through God's eyes.

We're doing this learning through...

- Book studies
- Video discussions
- Field trips
- Service opportunities
- Small actions
- Things we haven't even imagined yet

Want to be part of this journey? Take the first step with us! Email inclusion@brecksvilleumc.com

- The Multi-Cultural Conversation Team