Join Us for Worship on Sunday
8:45-Contemporary Service
10:00- Christian Education
11:15- Traditional Service

You Are The Church

When United Methodists gather in conferences such as Annual Conference, Jurisdictional, and General, we are always careful to balance the laity—the people of the church—and the clergy—those ordained to specific service; the ministers.

In a local church, however, like here at Brecksville, the people of the church far outnumber the clergy. We are blessed here at Brecksville to have clergy such as Kendall Lancaster and Tom Taylor in addition to Karen Oehl and Libby Kuntz on staff. The clergy have training and gifts to offer the church.

But the real work of the church is done by the people. It always has been and always will be.

We are beginning our season of nominations, the work of the Lay Leadership Committee. This group of lay people will try to discern how we can best fill the many positions on committees, boards, and in volunteer slots that we need to carry on the ministry and mission of the church. In this newsletter you will find a copy of a form that describes many of those opportunities. Use it to find out more and express an interest in a particular area. It will also be available on Sunday mornings.

We need you to be the church: the people and leaders of this congregation. Prayerfully consider where you might share your time and talents in the coming year.
Graduation or Commencement?

Comments from Rev. Karen Oehl

Our daughter Kirsten completed her courses at Baldwin-Wallace this past December, and so is technically graduating this spring. But we are not going to the ceremonies, by her choice. “Mom,” she said, “I don’t want to go through graduation. I’m done, I have things to plan, I’m busy right now with work and everything else.” She has a job, is planning a wedding, and working on moving to England this summer. In her mind, college is already far in the past.

I am not a big fan of graduation ceremonies. For some reason they always make me sad. They are a bittersweet time, marking a stage of life that will never come again, yet celebrating the completion of a lot of hard work and effort. The high school graduations of our daughters were both meaningful and I’m glad I was there. But I am not regretting a missed ceremony this spring.

The word graduation stresses the completion aspect of this time. Commencement, on the other hand, reminds us that this is just the beginning. That is more how Kirsten feels. With her education done, she is ready, and more than ready, to move on.

I always think that the disciples never really had a graduation or even a commencement ceremony. They went straight from being followers to leaders. The crucifixion and resurrection were earth-shaking and world-shaping events for them. They brought to an end their time of training and thrust them into mission and ministry. They didn’t have time for a ceremony—they were busy doing things right away.

It is this hectic time of the early church that we are especially looking at this spring. What was going on in their lives? How was Jesus present to them? How had the world changed because Jesus was risen?

And what does this mean for us as disciples? Do we ever graduate? Do we ever commence? We are in the same place as the disciples were who first saw the empty tomb. The good news is always fresh. Jesus is always with us. We have a story to tell others. We never really graduate, because we are never really done. We are always commencing. There is always someone new to share with, a new mission calling to us, a new way of discovering that Jesus is alive and among us.

We will be confirming a group of eighth graders in the coming month. Too often confirmation is looked on as a kind of graduation, and not a commencement. There should never be such a moment in our Christian walk, when we think, “I am done.” We are always beginning. Our theme music is not Pomp and Circumstance, but Christ the Lord Is Risen Today. Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Jesus is alive. Nothing will ever be the same again.

There is always someone new to share with, a new mission calling to us, a new way of discovering that Jesus is alive and among us.


**CMAP takes the stage!**

On Sunday, May 23, the children in our Christian Musical Arts Program will present their spring musicals. Beginning at 4:00 pm, our Kindergartners through third graders will present *It’s Okay to Be Different*, a short musical in which we learn about peace and reconciliation through the Biblical image of the lion and the lamb. A rather contentious group of fearsome cats and gentle sheep will learn to get along, both musically and interpersonally. They will be led by Grace Auble and Megan Loutit, their “choir directors” in the show!

This story will be followed by our 4th through 8th graders in *Elijah, God’s Faithful Prophet*. This intermediate musical tells a story of the many ways the prophet Elijah had to place his unwavering trust in God. Played by Eli Shively, Elijah has to navigate a dangerous landscape dotted with enemies: King Ahab (Bridget Gee), Queen Jezebel (Sarah Lundholm), and their many prophets and underlings who serve other Gods. Along the way, Elijah meets the Widow of Zarephath (Aleyna Gee) and is helped by his faithful friend Obadiah (Jenna Schroedel). The show is narrated by Erin Gee and Sarah Ford.

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to see our children and youth share these timeless stories about God’s love and faithfulness. These programs are free and open to all and will be followed by a short reception. We hope to see you there!

~Joy Fenton, Director of Music

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**Don’t miss the CMAP Spring Musicals**

The critics agree:

“One of the best musicals of the decade ...an instant classic.” Jenny Gee

“CMAP Rocks!” Lisa Drew

“A toe tapping good time.” Karen Oehl

“Perfect family fun!” Cec Podolny

“The best stories ever told!” Scott Hastings

**Sunday, May 23rd**

4 pm—7 pm, Fellowship Hall
East Ohio Camps Open House

The weather is warming and the flowers are blooming… that means that NOW would be a great time to register for summer camp!! Would you like to tour the camps and ask some questions before registering? Attend an open house!

Camp Asbury -- Held an open house on April 18. Call the camp office at (330) 569-3171 to schedule a tour.

Camp Wanake – Held an open house on April 25. Schedule a tour by calling (330) 756-2333.

Camp Aldersgate – May 30, starting at 10 a.m. Schedule a tour by calling (330) 627-4369.

Check out the camp programs that they have planned for summer by visiting www.eocumc.com/camps.

Early Bird deadline is May 1.

Family Memorial Day Weekend Camp Experience

Have you considered sending your kids away to summer camp, but are not sure that they would like it? Have you sent your kids off to camp and now you want to try it too? Do you not have any kids (or they are all grown up) and you want to spend a weekend with your spouse or friends surrounded by the beauty of God’s creation? Sign up soon for Camp Wanake Memorial Day Weekend Camp-O-Rama.

Pitch a tent, park an RV, rent a cabin or book a room in the retreat center. Cook your own meals (or dine at the nearby Amish Door Restaurant), swim, canoe, hike, rock climb and enjoy wagon rides. Let Jenny know if you would like to attend.

Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School will be held June 28 through July 1 from 9:00 until 11:30 a.m. This year’s title is Galactic Blast – God’s love for us is so apparent when we explore the beauty of His creations. Preschoolers through incoming 5th graders will attend VBS at the church; while 6th through 8th graders will meet at the Meadows Picnic Area in Brecksville Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks. Sign up will begin in May. Volunteers are still needed to lead children and teach classes for VBS. Call Jenny if you are willing to help at VBS this year.

www.brecksvilleumc.com
NEVER SAY NEVER

By Lisa Drew

If I have heard it once then I have heard it a thousand times. “When it comes to my children, I have learned to never say ‘never’.” When I was still a teenager at Reynolds High School my brothers and I took part in lots of school activities; marching band, track, wrestling or wrestling manager, choir, band, Model UN, etc. And where we were our mother was sure to volunteer! All three of us participated in the school’s marching band and each Fall our mother would volunteer in the concession stand. That was her hallowed training ground in the skill of never saying ‘never’.

She would be talking with other parents while selling pop, candy bars and popcorn, and time after time she would hear them bragging about their offspring's stellar moral choices. My mother would be baffled at the parents’ lack of knowledge of their own children. She would hear Mrs. K. brag about her daughter’s devotion to the D.A.R.E. program while knowing we had told her Mrs. K’s daughter had been drunk at the last school dance. She would hear Mr. L. tell of the great work his son was doing academically and in all areas of life, while my mom knew his son was the school’s drug connection. This sort of interaction occurred often enough to prove to my mother that where parents and kids are concerned it is wiser to always remember that they are children who make flawed choices sometimes. This can be tough when you are dealing with a young person who; holds a job, drives a car, and helps pay the family bills. Many of the highly mature actions can lull you into the misconception that your young people are ready to be out on their own and calling all of the shots. Trusting your kids can build great confidence in them, but you always need to remember to be on guard and watchful.

In April the Chemical Abuse Prevention Association (CAPA) and our church co-hosted an evening for parents and youth called “Hidden in Plain Sight.” They erected full scale girl’s and boy’s bedrooms to show parents how to recognize signs to watch for that can indicate risky behaviors and choices. While the parents were learning ways to help their teenagers, the youth met in the youth room and learned decision-making skills and talked about risky behaviors.

Those who participated gave us wonderful feedback and some teachers who attended are so excited that they are working to bring the program into the school for the teachers. On Wednesday May 12, you have the opportunity to attend an identical night at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. You can walk through the bedrooms at 6:30 and the program for youth and parents starts at 7pm. Feel free to call me with questions or contact the CAPA office at BBHHS. This is open for families of other communities, and I’d encourage grandparents or parents of pre-teens to attend as well.

Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com

MILESTONES

Milestones celebrate the special happenings in the lives of BUMC. If you have a special anniversary, birth, retirement, wedding, special honor or other news you would like to share, please call or e-mail Melanie

Dean Fowler, a member of our church for 28 years, died Tuesday, April 13. Services were held here April 16, Rev. Oehl officiating. We extend our deepest sympathies to Dean’s wife, Patti, and to the Fowler family.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Debbi Scheufler and family on the death of Debbi’s mother.

We welcome to the world Stella Ann McCrod- den, who was born to Allen and Melodee McCrodden on Tuesday, April 6. Congratulations to proud grandparents Bruce and Judy McCrodden and to big sister, Mallory.

Another baby joined our extended family in April. Congratulations to Jeff and Marilyn Schillo on the arrival of their new granddaughter, Savannah Lucille.

In April we welcomed four babies into God’s kingdom and our congregation through Holy Baptism: Ryan Scott Wilson, son of Brad and Heather; Mitchell James Bell, son of Jason and Alison; Brock Daniel Raybuck, son of Danielle and Scott; and Donald Jack McGree, son of Patrick and Amy. We rejoice in their rebirth through water and the Word.

Our own Scott Hastings took home a first place trophy from the annual DECA competition held April 13 in Canton. Scott and his team mates were recognized for “Group Decision Making.” Way to go, Scotty!

By Lisa Drew
Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college, graduate or professional school? We want to celebrate them during Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 13th. Please contact Melanie or Cec in the church office before May 28th by phone or e-mail to receive a graduate recognition form: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com.

BUMC Growing Greener

With your cooperation and the encouragement especially of Jeff Hastings, Facilities Manager, we are developing some strategies to be more responsible in our use of the earth’s resources. We have changed over to mugs for Sunday morning coffee hours. Thanks to those who have brought in mugs. Remember that you can use a church travel mug to take coffee or tea to Sunday School classes. Many travel mugs are still available for you to own and bring back each week.

There are additional bins for recycling throughout the church, including a box for bulletins to go into on Sunday mornings in the Narthex.

As the website is continuously updated, we encourage you to find and share information there or electronically, rather than with paper. Check for meeting minutes, calendar updates, the newsletter, and more.

Do you have other ideas for caring for the miracle that surrounds us in nature? Share them with the staff and church leaders and we will keep moving towards habits of good natural stewardship.

Volunteer Appreciation
Calling all volunteers!! Sunday June 6 is the last Sunday before summer worship hours begin. There is no Sunday School for any grade level that day so that we can join together to recognize the many people that volunteer their time and energy to our church. This means YOU!!! Please join us for breakfast, fellowship and volunteer recognition.

Who: You and everyone that makes our church family so strong
What: Volunteer Recognition Sunday
Where: Fellowship Hall
When: Between 1st and 2nd Service on Sunday, June 6.

Mark your calendars and plan on attending!!!

Church Women United (CWU) has two exciting events planned for May.

On May 3 take a tour of churches. Members of our church can car pool to the Islamic Center of Cleveland at 6055 W 139th St in Parma to pick up the bus at 9:30 A.M. The tour will end at this same location at 4:00 P.M. The $32 cost includes lunch at Golden Corral. Sign-up sheets are in the church office or call Nancy Knowlton for a reservation or to car pool: 440-838-4341. On May 18 enjoy the annual Spring Salad Luncheon for the Southwest chapter of CWU. This event will be held at Good Shepherd Church at noon. There is no fee, but be sure to bring a salad to share. Call Nancy if you are interested.

Meet at the Octagon Shelter, 801 Truxell Road, 1.5 miles west of Akron Cleveland Road in Peninsula. Bring a small pack with lunch, water and work gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.

The earth is the Lord’s

BUMC Service Squad

2010 Service Hours – National Trails Day Trail Sweep

We have the opportunity to join Adopt-a-Trail crew leaders and veteran crew members at the 9th annual Adopt-a-Trail Training Workshop to be held on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 5, 2010. The day starts at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast, followed by one hour of classroom training. From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. we will do an actual trail maintenance sweep of along one of the trails in the CVNRA. Doing a trail sweep means to help pick up litter, trim tree branches, clear culverts, and report trail conditions. Let Jenny know if you are interested in this project. If we get a large enough group we will be assigned our own trail to “sweep”.

Meet at the Octagon Shelter, 801 Truxell Road, 1.5 miles west of Akron Cleveland Road in Peninsula. Bring a small pack with lunch, water and work gloves. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather.
Summer Hospitality

On June 13 we will start worship on the summer schedule, with an outdoor service at 8:30 am on the lawn, and a sanctuary service at 10:00. In recognition of the family feeling of these Sundays, we would like to invite families to serve as our summer hospitality teams. Pick a Sunday when you and your family, perhaps as a team with another family, will be our greeters and ushers. We will provide training and guidance. This is a great way to be involved one Sunday this summer and help to give our regular ushers a summer break. If you are interested, contact Pastor Karen or the office.

A Letter From Liberia:

The church received this letter from Kathy and Danny Dicke, who are currently working for UMC in Liberia. Janet Kleckner had delivered money we had collected during our Christmas offering, money from Missions, and over 100 toothbrushes donated by you!

Together, we collected:
14 t-shirts, 62 pairs of socks, and underwear for 49 boys and 55 girls.

THANK YOU

Karen Pace
Shelby Olszko
Sandie Meyer
Suzanne Blatnik
Lori Pasek
Allie Russo
Linda Faulk
Jenny Gee
Eric Chen
Scott Hastings
Nancy Lee
Mike Terrill
Bill Rittman
Joseph Tereshko
Bobby Hotaling
Evan Croy
Walt Walburn
Dough Hurst
Danielle Fisher
Nora Culley
Harry Fox
Jeff Drescher
Donald Rickert
Lynn Hobzek
Sara Meyer
Matthew Dietrich
Gorman Eilbeck
Emily Kotnik
Philip Hines
Marjorie Arnold
Betty Fielden
Kristin Bindel
Kirk Robinson
Nick Bondra
Ken Hedges
Mark Hobzek
Brian Culley
Bever Huber
Brett Hof
Alan Scheufler
Bob Johns
Catherine Vastartis
Jack Neville
Don Krolikowski
Greg Diver
David Engler
Ashley Pace
Miriam Moore
Clark Rechkemmer

MAY BIRTHDAYS
### May Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6:30 Women's Emmaus 7:30 Board Trustees</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9:30 UMW 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</td>
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<td>Alpha  6 EPIC</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6:30 Evangelism 6:30 Women's Emmaus 7:30 COM</td>
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<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 4 CMAP 4 Quest</td>
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<td>9:30 Staff Meeting 8 Music Board Staff Supper (SPR)</td>
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<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>7a Emmaus Reunion</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:15 Handbells 7:30 Choir</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth 10:45 CMAP Rehearsal 12:30 Recital 7:30 Cleveland Food Bank</td>
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<td>4:30 Wedding</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>12:30 Confirmation Service</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>8 Music Board Staff Supper (SPR)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>6 Music Board Staff Supper (SPR)</td>
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<td>7a Emmaus Reunion</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Confirmation Service</td>
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<td>6:30 Women's Emmaus 7:30 Worship Committee</td>
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<td>9:30 Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 7 Prayer Service</td>
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<td>8:45 Worship</td>
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A gift for Mom: Three young children told their mother that she wasn’t to lift a finger on Mother’s Day. They were going to do all the cooking, so they got out their pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board, and eight serving dishes. Mom said, “I'll do the dessert. Take those dishes to the kitchen.”

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May 2: United Methodist Women’s Sunday with Rev. Yvonne Connor, Broadway UMC, Communion


May 23—Pentecost

May 30—Trinity Sunday

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Was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!