November

November is a time of change: a change of seasons both in nature and the church. Outside, we will changing from fall to winter. I always expect to see a few flakes of snow by the end of the month. Inside we move from All Saints to Christ the King to the first Sunday of Advent. It is the turn of the liturgical year, full of joy and activity.

On Sunday, November 7 we feast with the saints, celebrating communion and reading the names of beloved friends and family who have died in the past year. In addition, the time changes on this day and we will dedicate our financial commitments for the coming year. A big day in the life of the church!

Christ the King Sunday falls on November 21. This is the end of the Christian year. We conclude our seasons with a celebration of the kingdom now and forever that we live in by the power of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at the Community Thanksgiving service on the evening of November 14 at 7:00, at the Independence Presbyterian Church, hosted by Leroy Ford. This interfaith service brings together congregations from Brecksville, Broadview Heights, and Independence.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. This year we will focus on the book of Isaiah on Sunday mornings in worship and adult Sunday School, and with a book of morning devotions written by church members. More details will come in next month’s newsletter.
Do you believe in ghosts? This is one of those questions that often comes up in social conversation. It always seems to be followed by a number of convincing and comprehensive “ghost” stories and real life experiences. At this time of year, of course, ghost stories are in the air. Stores and TV stations take full advantage of the Halloween theme. Ghost stories are popular all through the year, as well. I’ve watched my share of episodes of Ghost Hunters. What really amuses me is that the original Taps team were (and I believe still are) plumbers! Care of your pipes leads to care of your ghosts?

What I do not hear in conversation is the question that we should be asking: Do you believe in the soul? Do we pay attention to the spiritual side of our being, and care for it? Can you share “soul stories” with others? When troubled, do you seek help not from a plumber or ghost hunter, but from those who can help care for your soul? The word “curate”, used for pastors in the Anglican church, comes from this idea of care of the soul. “Cure” and “care” are equivalent in this case.

Jesus was able to cure people’s physical diseases. But he also cared for their souls. We recently read the story of Jesus healing ten lepers. The one who came back to thank Jesus was praised, and Jesus talked about him being made well by faith. In some translations what Jesus says to him is that faith has saved him. He was already healed in body; this is something in addition to that. Jesus will use the same language about Zacchaeus, in the story we’ll read on October 31. What is changed and healed for these men is the soul, the dwelling place of their relationship to God.

On All Saints Day and All Saints Sunday we celebrate the lives and souls of members of the church and of our families who have died in the past year. But I like to think of this as a time to celebrate all souls, the unique and deep spiritual dimension of every person. Even if you don’t believe in ghosts, you must believe in the soul. We don’t need to spend our time trying to weigh it, or identify where it lives in the body, as has been done in other centuries. But we do need to pay attention to the wonder of the soul, that place of emotion, power, faith, and personality.

How is it with your soul? Is it well?
Communion Class for 5th Graders

Students in the Fifth Grade are invited to participate in a brand new experience here at Brecksville United Methodist Church—a class which will introduce them to the meaning and practice of communion in our faith tradition.

The Communion Class, which will be held on Sunday November 14 and November 21, will look at stories of Jesus at the table, learn a bit about the history of communion, what it means to us today, the words of a communion service, and how it is physically prepared. Participants will have the opportunity to help serve communion at Chippewa Place and in our worship on Sunday, December 5.

If you have a child in this age group and you have not received a letter of invitation, please contact Rev. Oehl. Feel free to ask questions, and plan to participate!

Guide Book and Directory

Because our church pictorial directory is updated every three years or so, contact information can become out of date. This year, we have contracted with a company called Guide Book Publishing to print a directory for our congregation that will be updated and delivered by mail to your homes annually. The directory will not contain family pictures but will feature important dates for the upcoming year as well as contact information and other good stuff. The book is being provided at no cost to our church.

To offset the cost of printing, local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a business and would like to learn about advertising in the directory, please call the church office: 440-526-8938.

Is your contact information up to date? Now is the time to get those changes in to the office! Help us share the right information! Update us with any changes that may have occurred in your family over the past year.

♦ Have you changed your phone number?
♦ Have you moved?
♦ Are you preparing to move soon?
♦ Are all of your children at home and are they all included in your membership record?
♦ Do you want your record published?

Call or e-mail the office, or jot your changes down on a note and slip it into the offering plate at this weeks’ services. The deadline for changes for the directory is November 29.

Thank you for your help!
2011 Calendars Have Arrived!
Pick up your copy in the Parlor after services on Sunday or in the church office during the week. The calendars are provided by Nosek-McCreery Funeral Home.

As the year draws to a close, we are getting closer to the end of our year of focus on community service. The goal was to encourage the congregation to get involved in hands-on service beyond the church. You are especially encouraged to try something new, since the truth is that members of this congregation are often already involved in many kinds of service. This would have included everything from new experiences in Costa Rica and Liberia to people helping at the Foodbank and Brooklyn Memorial who had not done that before. We had some new family and youth opportunities, new faces on the YSP trip, and maybe some other new experiences.

Although new was stressed, we would also be glad to hear stories and collect hours of service that you have been involved in this past year that was already a part of your routine.

We are still collecting reports of hours—the cards to record this are now in the Parlor, and can be turned in to the office, to a staff member, or to Cathy Buttolph. We would also like to collect stories of your experiences, so do not be surprised if you are asked!

A celebration of the completion of Project 2010 is planned for Sunday, January 9. It is not too late to share your love...one hour at a time.

Cherry Cobbler!
Give your family a special dessert treat! UMW will be baking and selling delicious cherry cobbler on Sunday, November 14. The cost is $8.00 per 8” round pan and the profit will benefit the UMW mission funds. The cherry cobbler will be sold between services and after the 11:00 service in the parlor.

UMW Meeting: November 4
The November 4 UMW meeting will be an interesting and informative presentation of "A Study of Sudan" by Elinor Rowan. A World Thank Offering will be taken for the missions around the globe. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting which will begin at 9:30 am with a continental breakfast and fellowship. The program will start at 10:00 am.
2010 Charge Conference Highlights

♦ Charge Conference on a Sunday morning was a pleasant new feature. We met in the Sanctuary during the education hour.

♦ Rev. Orlando Chaffee, District Superintendent presided over the meeting, Lynn Hobzek served as secretary.

♦ Lisa Drew Kropinak, on the recommendation from Staff Parish Relations, was approved as a Declared Candidate—next steps certification and licensing for pastoral ministry!

♦ Lay speakers were approved for renewal or new training.

♦ Our leaders on committees and to Annual Conference were approved.

♦ The clergy compensation plans were approved, $65,231 for Rev. Oehl, $11,474 for Rev. Kuntz.

♦ Membership and financial matters were reported.

♦ Rev. Chaffee left us with the challenge to use Mission Insite to refine our plans for ministry based in the demographics of our area, and to increase average worship attendance by 50 in the coming year.

The Parma Southwest Unit of Church Women United will be celebrating World Community Day here, at BMC, on Friday, November 5 at 9:30 am. A free will offering will be accepted after the program. Please join us or this interesting program.

Think before you toss it!
We recycle!
Matthew Schillo was married to Kristin Fall on Sunday, September 5th. They are both from Orlando and were married by Pastor Karen in a private family ceremony at the Brecksville Nature Center.

Fred and Olive Priest will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary November 9th. They were married at Schaffer Memorial United Methodist in Cleveland by the Rev. Charles Clark.

A beautiful funeral service celebrating the life of Gordon Markley was held here at the church on Friday, October 19th. The service was filled with music, including a recording of Gordon singing “The Lord’s Prayer”. Our prayers go out to Lois, their children, and families.

Congratulations to the Filips family on the marriage of Megan and gaining a new member of their family, Brian McMahon. Megan and Brian became “Mr. and Mrs.” here at the church on Saturday, October 16.

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**Budget Year To Date**  $417,826.50  
**Revenue (Actual)**  $385,909.96  
**Expenses (Actual)**  $393,466.00  
**Deficit**  $(7,556.04)

As you can see, our expenses are $24,360 below budget. Unfortunately, our revenue is almost $32,000 below budget, leaving us with a $7,556 deficit. If you have delayed your planned giving, this would be a great time to catch up.

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**BUMC Be a part of it!**

**Puzzle Pieces and Pledges, Please**

We are eagerly waiting for your piece of the puzzle! Mail or bring in your pledge card along with the puzzle piece that came with it. We are starting to assemble the puzzle which is full of familiar faces. Look for it in the Parlor on Sunday mornings. You can add your own piece if you see where it goes, or drop it in the jar. Your pledge card can go in the offering plate. We will not be complete in joy without the part you have in the community of faith here at Brecksville UMC.

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**We are the people of THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

We believe in - making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We live by two kinds of holiness.  
- Personal  
- Social

We follow three simple rules.  
- Do no harm.  
- Do good.  
- Stay in love with God.

We work in four areas of focus.  
- Developing leaders  
- Creating places for new people  
- Eliminating poverty  
- Improving health globally

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**TAZÉ WORSHIP**

**PRAYER SERVICE**

**Wednesday, November 10**  
**The Chapel, 7 pm**
**Emergency Numbers**

More effective than 911. Call when...

- You are sad — John 14
- You have sinned — Psalm 51
- You are facing danger — Psalm 91
- People have failed you — Psalm 27
- You are worried — Matthew 8:19-34
- You require courage — Joshua 1
- You are depressed — Psalm 27
- You are losing hope — Psalm 126
- You want to carry fruit — John 15
- For dealing with fear — Psalm 3:47
- For security — Psalm 121:3
- For assurance — Mark 8:35

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**HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

**Soul Quest Continues Every Thursday, 5-6:15pm**

Soul Quest is a mid-week, high school event that will give you a chance to weekly catch up and dig deeper into your faith. We will include supper. Our music director, Joy Fenton, will be offering a High School Choir from 6:15-7pm following Soul Quest Thursday!

**EPIC “Special” Event, Sunday Nov. 14, 4-6pm—Ronald McDonald House**

This is a limited event! We need 6 Senior High students to help fix a meal for the families staying at Ronald McDonald House. We will cook from 4-5pm and then serve supper from 5-6pm. We may also provide a craft for the kids staying there with their families. See Youth Minister, Lisa Kropinak, with any questions. If we get more students interested than we can take we will add a second date.

**Friday, December 3—Rock-a-Thon—7pm to Midnight**

Come to the church fellowship hall to rock the night away for a good cause! You will need to bring your own rocking chair or recliner. Bring a snack to share and any video games etc. for entertainment. We will have a movie going and will provide beverages. You will be asked to raise money for our cause that will be revealed in the next Good Word. Put it on your calendars now!!!

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS!**

**Quest Is Every Wednesday --3:15-4:30pm**

Quest is a mid-week, after-school program for 6-8 graders. During Quest we play games, eat a snack and share in a Bible Lesson. Contact Youth Minister, Lisa Kropinak, with any questions.

**Swimming & Pizza Party, Sunday, November 14—1-3pm**

$8 Sign up online for this exciting afternoon. The price includes swimming for two hours and a pizza/chips/pop party. Friends are welcome though we must have a medical form for them. Meet us at Broadview Heights Rec Center on Broadview Rd. by 1pm! We’d love to have some parents help out! RSVP online at www.brecksvilleumc.com today!!

**Friday, December 3—Rock-a-Thon—7pm to Midnight**

Come to the church fellowship hall to rock the night away for a good cause!! You will need to bring your own rocking chair or recliner. Bring a snack to share and any video games etc. for entertainment! We will have a movie going and will provide beverages! You will be asked to raise money for our cause that will be revealed in the next Good Word!! Put it on your calendars now!!!

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Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com
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<td>11 Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>9:30 Church Women United</td>
<td>8 pm until 8 am: 8th Grade Overnight!</td>
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<td>9:30 Staff</td>
<td>5:15 MS Choir</td>
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<td>Women United World Community Day</td>
<td>8:30 Fall Grounds Clean Up</td>
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<td>6:30 Women's Emmaus</td>
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<td>8:45 Worship</td>
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<td>11:15 Worship</td>
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**November 7:** All Saints, Communion, Campaign Celebration/Commitment


**November 21:** Christ the King Sunday

**November 28:** First Sunday of Advent—Hope

**November 28:** First Sunday in Advent—Hope

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**Church Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 4:30. Friday, 8:30 - 12:30. Need more information? Check the on-line calendar for details!