Imagine growth.
Imagine transformation.
IMAGINE CHANGING THE WORLD
November 2013

Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared!

You have a story to tell. The Spirit can use our everyday life experiences to touch hearts in ways you cannot imagine. How has God been active in your life? How have you been blessed? What experience have you had that reminded you of God’s grace and Extravagant Generosity? How have you shared that gift with others? We are always encouraged to hear about how God is moving in your family, personal life, workplace, and in every way. Blessings come in many forms. What are some of yours?

Please take a few moments to share and give God the glory for the great things God has accomplished in your life!

E-mail Joy at music@brecksvilleumc.com
or
Write it down and drop it by the church office
or
Call the church to leave a voicemail:
440-526-8938

Generosity describes our unselfish willingness to give in order to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ. In November, we’ll learn more about the practice of Extravagant Generosity and how our ministries address our spiritual need to give in ways that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. Fruitful congregations thrive because of extraordinary sharing, willing sacrifice, and joyous giving out of love for God and neighbor. Read more about our plans inside!

You should be receiving your devotional booklet Practicing Extravagant Generosity: Daily Readings on the Grace of Giving soon. Additional copies are available—please contact the church office for a copy!
Celebrate God All Day

Dr. Hugh McKean of Chiangmai, Thailand, tells of a church of four hundred members where every member tithes. They receive a weekly wage of forty stangs (less than twenty cents) and their rice. Of this meager existence, each gives a tenth every week. Because of this, they have done more for Christ in Thailand than perhaps any other church. They pay their own preacher and have sent two missionary families to spread the gospel in a community cut off from the outside world. They are keenly interested in all forms of Christian work, especially work for unfortunates of every kind; and their gifts for this kind of work are large. They have not only accepted Christ, but, having found Him good, they are making Him known to others. Oh, by the way, this church of all tithers is also a church of all lepers—every person has leprosy.

We come to November, a month that holds much celebration for us. We will engage in our all church stewardship campaign, culminating with a special Commitment Sunday. Then we move into Thanksgiving and the beginning of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. We have so much for which to be thankful. It has always been my experience that those who have little seem to be able to share just about everything that they have. As blessings grow, we often get confused into believing that they came our way through our own efforts and are uniquely ours to enjoy. My prayer for all of us in this wonderful month of thanks, is that we will remain humbled and grateful for all God has given. So much so, that we will be moved to share more of what we have that others might come to know Jesus, and experience His love for them through our generosity.

I thank God for all of you, and for this incredible journey we share. May we respond according to the many ways we have been blessed.

With a thankful heart…
Pastor Clark

Fellowship Hour Hosts for November:
EVANGELISM
Thank you!

Old Stamps = Tools!
The UMW collects cancelled postage stamps (except the "regular" Forever stamp [theme Forever stamps ARE accepted] and postcard stamps) for National Church Women United. The stamps help “Tools for Hope” provide tools in developing countries worldwide. Bring your stamps to the box in the cloak room. It’s an easy, cost free way to help others!
Take a spiritual journey with us in November... make sure you’re in worship as we discover Extravagant Generosity together!

November 3 – All Saint’s Sunday
EKG – Ministry Flows from the Heart
Each year, we take the opportunity in worship to remember the women and men of God who have gone before us. Indeed, their heart for ministry inspires the next generation of worshippers to continue in their footsteps. Focus: Sharing and good deeds result in caring ministries. Join us for this special Sunday of remembrance and inspiration for the future!

November 10 – Veteran’s Sunday
The Art of Love – Relationships are Matters of the Heart
Many of us have dear friends and family members who have given of themselves in service to our nation. Our veterans remind us that when God’s love extends through us to those around us, we are motivated to act and serve on their behalf. It is relationships that truly call us into service. Focus: Your relationships with others prove you know God. Don’t miss this important Sunday of honoring our service men and women.

November 17 – Leadership Sunday
Bucket Lists – Vision and Hope are Inspirations of the Heart
The leadership of Brecksville United Methodist Church is made up of ordinary women and men who have expressed a willingness to give of their time and energy in pursuit of what they believe to be God’s vision for our church and our world. Focus: God’s vision requires faith and stepping out of your comfort zone. Each of you is invited to see yourself as a leader and a role model on the journey of faith we walk together.

November 24: Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday
Declarations of Your Heart – Extravagant Generosity is an Expression of Your Heart
Extravagant generosity is our natural response to God’s incredible gifts of grace and mercy to us. In the very deepest sense, every one of us benefits daily from gifts of nature and community and family that we have done nothing to deserve. Focus: Well done, good and faithful servant. We ask that you make every effort to be present and present your gift of extravagant generosity in person. We will lay our gifts on the altar and ask God to bless and multiply them, so that they might edify this community and truly change the world!
When United Methodist pastor the Rev. David Lord’s pager went off after church on Mother’s Day, he and his wife Kathryn assumed a parishioner wanted to talk to him. When he took the call, however, what he learned was far worse.

His son, Ray, 21, had been in a car accident. Tragically, Ray was declared brain dead soon afterward. As the young man’s parents processed the news, they asked about organ donation.

Ray Lord died shortly before midnight on that Mother’s Day, but doctors harvested his organs so others would have a chance to live.

“As we were leaving the hospital,” Kathryn Lord said, “I couldn’t help but think about Ray’s reply any time he was asked how he was doing. He always said, ‘My heart’s still beating.’ That night as I walked out of his room, his heart was beating only because he was on life support until his organs and tissues could be recovered.”

Although David and Kathryn Lord lost their son, others gained life — or a better quality of life because of the gift the Longs gave in their tragedy.

Today, United Methodists observe Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, celebrating and thanking God for the gift of life and encouraging people to consider organ and tissue donation.

On Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, let us remember the gift of donors. Each day, about 77 people receive organ transplants, and 18 people die waiting for them. People of all ages and conditions can be organ donors.

“I would not want anyone to go through what we did with Ray,” said Kathryn Lord after her son, 21, died tragically and his parents donated his organs. “However, I would like to be able to educate others on the facts about organ and tissue donation. Please don’t be afraid to talk about it. You never know when you may be faced with having to make a life-giving decision.”

The week after Ray died, Kathryn said, “I could not help but wonder if we should have kept Ray on life support longer. Then we got our first letter from Tennessee Donor Services, and in that letter was ‘To Remember Me’ by Robert N. Test. After reading the letter and the poem, I knew we had done the right thing.” --Adapted from dcids.org and womenshealth.gov

Any age is the right age to share the gift of life! 100 million Americans are registered organ, eye and tissue donors. Many are in their 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond. More than 114,000 people of all ages are waiting for a donor. Go to organdonor.gov to learn more!
What Do You Believe?

*BUMC’s Advent Devotional 2013*

We want YOU to be a part of this year’s Advent Devotional! This year’s theme is “This I Believe” based on the popular 1950’s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow. Together, we’ll explore and share our core beliefs about Christmas.

What do you believe? It’s a challenging question. To help guide you through the writing process, we put together some writing prompts, available on the next page.

Essays must be received by November 18—but early submissions are appreciated! We need 25 writers to make this gift to the congregation happen. Can you be one of them? Contact the office to sign up! 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com
2013 Advent Devotional: This I Believe....

In this advent season, what are the truths that you hold most dear? Reflections may include personal memories, meaningful stories, truths you have learned along your personal journey, and/or a look at a passage of the Bible. Consider...

What stands in the way of hope? For what should we hope?
What cuts people off from a sense of joy? Where do you find your joy renewed?
When have you witnessed the absence of love? When are you most aware of love?
What stands in the way of peace? Who inspires you to keep dreaming of peace?

A great outline for your devotional:
- Scripture Passage
- Thoughts/reflections (150-250 words)
- Closing Prayer

Below, you will find a selection of Scriptures to get you thinking. It is always a great idea to read the entire chapter, even if you will only be using a small portion. You might also want to find out a little more about the book of the Bible. Who wrote it? When was it written? What was going on when it was written? Remember that any member of program staff would be more than happy to help guide you in your study and writing!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hope</th>
<th>Joy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job 5:6-16</td>
<td>Psalm 5:11-12 or 47:1-2 or 96:10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psalm 71:1-5 or 147:7-11</td>
<td>Isaiah 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 5:1-5 or 8:22-25 or 15:13</td>
<td>Colossians 1:9-12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hebrews 12:1-2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James 1:2-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I Peter 1:6-9</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Love</th>
<th>Peace</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Chronicles 16:31-34</td>
<td>Psalm 34:9-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 13 or 36:5-10</td>
<td>Jeremiah 6:11-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song of Solomon 8:6-7</td>
<td>Matthew 5:4-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zephaniah 3:14-20</td>
<td>John 14:25-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 22:36-40</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John 13:34-35 or 15:9-13</td>
<td>Hebrews 12:11-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 12:9-12 (whole chapter is awesome!)</td>
<td>James 3:13-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Corinthians 16:13-14</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Galatians 5:13-14 or 22-26</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I John 4:17-21</td>
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</table>

Tips:
Your devotional doesn’t all have to be “happy!” Sometimes great wisdom is gained in tough situations. Write from “back to front.” Start with your conclusion or culminating thought and work backward.
Take your time! Write something down today, and then let it “settle” for a few days.
Be careful about internet searches…. not all information is good information.

Devotionals are due on November 18.
Grab your scissors and your fabric glue, and join the UMW in the Parlor on November 7 for some crafting! We’ll be making holiday gifts for Head Start kids!

We’ll also be participating in the World Thank Offering, one of the ways that United Methodist Women support work with women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world.

The UMW needs your help to Fill the Bin for Brookside. There is a serious need for: personal toiletries, paper products, paper towels, cleaning supplies, soap products and diapers. Can you help fill this need? There is a bin in the coat room labeled “Brookside”.

UMW also continues to collect used eyeglasses to be donated to those in need. Do you have an old pair laying around? Put it to good use by dropping them off in the coatroom collection cubbie marked “eyeglasses”. If you have questions, please contact Gretchen Mates at 440.526.6481.

**News from the Brecksville United Methodist Women**

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**Middle School Game Night**

Friday November 22nd
6 pm - 9 pm
The Louitt'ts house
4825 Valleybrook Dr.
Brecksville OH 44141

Please let us know if you plan to attend!
RSVP by November 18th
to Kyle at youth@brecksvilleumc.com
440.526.8938 x 227

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**Project 13:35**

**November 16-17, 2013**

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” · John 13:35

BUMC Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to attend a special overnight event in Columbus. The East Ohio Conference is promoting Methodist youth community and Christian growth with Christ-centered worship, a concert, and learning. It’s going to be a great retreat for our youth. Come get to know each other better, grow closer as a group, and learn more about the God we serve through youth-oriented worship, speakers, and activities. We encourage all youth to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. **WHEN: NOVEMBER 16-17**

- **WHAT**: Methodist Youth retreat focusing on worship, Christian pop music concerts, small group discussion, and fun. More online here: [www.eocumc.com/project1335/ index.html](http://www.eocumc.com/project1335/index.html). We will head down Saturday morning (around 7:30am) and return Sunday afternoon (around 1pm), staying at the hotel Saturday night.
- **WHERE**: The Ramada Plaza 4900 Sinclair Road, Columbus, OH 43229
- **COST**: $40 (includes registration and hotel) plus food costs for Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER WAS October 24** *(But Kyle’s taking late registrations. Act now before it’s too late!)* **CONTACT**: Kyle Allen · youth@brecksvilleumc.com or (440) 526-8938.

**FORMS**: Two forms must be completed with your registration
1) Project 1335 Health/Video Release form. Download here: [www.eocumc.com/project1335/ pdf/ Project1335MedicalForm.pdf](http://www.eocumc.com/project1335/pdf/Project1335MedicalForm.pdf)
2) BUMC Medical Release Form (previous forms expired in August 2013). Download here: [www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/forms](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/forms)

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**Mission Movie Night**

Sunday, November 3, 2013
3:00-6:00 at Brecksville UMC. “Last Flight Out” is an adventure movie and a good discussion starter about how we live Jesus’ love. Also fun & pizza!
Do you have news to share? Contact Melanie at office@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938.

Mark and Donna Sibits have welcomed a new grandson, Carter Allen, to their family. Carter was welcomed into the world by proud parents Scott and Lisa Sibits (and his big sister and brother) on October 2. Congratulations, Sibits family!

Donald and Gloria Southam have asked us to share their new address with everyone: Breckenridge Village North, 36500 Euclid Avenue, Apt A-260, Willoughby, OH 44094. More congratulations are in order:

Congratulations to Independence High School Homecoming King Darren Krolikowski!

Congratulations to Josh Dietrich, who has been named a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist.

Welcome New Members! Sarah Lundholm, Matthew Manocchio, Dareen Krolikowski, John Zawada, Bridget & Aleya Gee, Nick Orr, Stephanie Holmes, Derek Brinkman, Michael Lee, Michael Pace and Joshua Dietrich.

As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings, we recently lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. Folks like Kate White, who shares her lovely singing with us during Sunday worship; Stephanie and Emma Sak, who stepped in at the last minute to care for kids in the nursery; Jeff Fesler, whose skills with a paintbrush are legendary; and Michael Lee, liturgist and musician extraordinaire. Thank you!
Special Sunday Church Visits

Our youth will have some amazing opportunities this year to experience several different styles of Christian worship services as we will head out as a group to visit and join in worship with two Protestant denominations as well as Roman Catholic and Coptic congregations. Our youth Sunday school classes for grades 6 through 12 will attend these special Sundays in lieu of our education hour classes.

We are in need of chaperones to help drive youth on these Sundays. Contact Jenny Gee or Kyle Allen if you can assist. Participating youth will need to make sure they have turned in a 2013/2014 Medical Release Form, which is available on the church website at: www.brecksvilleumc.com/root/bumconline/forms

Please mark your calendars for dates and times of our visits as we will meet at BUMC and then leave as a group.

- **November 24:** St. Basil’s Catholic Church (meet at 10 am at BUMC)
- **January 19:** The Friends Church (meet at 10 am at BUMC)
- **March 16:** St. Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Church of Cleveland (meet at 8:30 am at BUMC)

If you would like more information, or if you have questions, please contact Kyle at youth@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938 x 227

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**Nicole Keller** is an active solo and chamber music recitalist and clinician in the United States and abroad. She enjoys exploring all aspects of organ repertoire, especially pairing new music for the instrument with the staples of the repertoire. Recent solo performances include concerts in New York, St. Louis, Kansas, Germany, France, and Kazakhstan. Ms. Keller performs regularly as a solo and collaborative artist on the organ, piano and harpsichord. She is on faculty at the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea, OH and serves as the Director of Music at The Community of Saint John in Hudson, OH.

In August of 2010 Ms. Keller was an instructor in the Internationale Or- gelakademie at Dom St. Stephan in Passau, Germany. The course focused on American and English organ music and included students from several countries in Europe. In conjunction with the course, she played a recital at Dom St. Stephan and at Stadtkirche St. Peter und Paul in Waldkirchen with Dr. Horst Buchholz, Director of Music at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. In April of 2011 Ms. Keller won first prize in the North American round of the Michael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition, earning a place in the second round in Kaliningrad, Russia. In Kaliningrad she was awarded the Special Shabyt Prize from the Kazakh National University of Arts in Astana, Kazakhstan for “the most promising organist for inspiration and luck” and performed a recital in Astana in May of 2012.

Ms. Keller received the Performer’s Certificate and the Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York under the tutelage of David Higgs. While at Eastman, she studied continuo with Arthur Haas and improvisation with Dr. Gerre Hancock. She received the Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio, studying piano with George Cherry and Jean Stell and organ with Margaret Scharf.

**Saturday, November 16, at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary**

Program to include works by Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Vierne, and Messiaen.

This concert is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

*Also coming up… Brecksville Community Chorus & Youth Chorus*

**Sunday, December 8, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary**

Concert includes Daniel Pinkham’s Christmas Cantata with brass quartet and organ!

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**THE SUNDAY BLAST**

a weekly e-mail Newsletter from BUMC.

Featuring:

Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings
Announcements, Upcoming Events and More

To subscribe, e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<tr>
<td>A I Saints Sunday Communion Sunday</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>8:30 CAPA 10 Staff Mtg 5 Children’s Choir 7 Evangelism 7:30 Liberia VIM Event</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 5:30 Youth Worship 6 Men’s Ensemble</td>
<td>9:30 UMW 4 Women’s Emmaus 5 Wedding Rehearsal 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</td>
<td>7 Emmaus 9:30 Church Women United</td>
<td>6:30 Chapel Service at Chippewa Place</td>
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<td>Veterans Sunday Ogan and Tissue Donor Sunday</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Staff Mtg 5 Children’s Choir CO M Super Tuesday Committee Meetings</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 5:30 Youth Worship</td>
<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth 4 Women’s Emmaus 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</td>
<td>7 Emmaus 3 HS Choir Church Wedding</td>
<td>Fall Yard Clean Up 6:30 Chapel Service at Chippewa Place</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leader Sunday</td>
<td>Staff Parish Relations Bible Study</td>
<td>Staff Mtg 10 Stitch’n’Time 5 Children’s Choir Church &amp; Society 7:30 Finance 7:30 Trustees</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers 5:30 Youth Worship 6:30 YSP Info Meeting Nehemiah Mission</td>
<td>History Club 4 Women’s Emmaus 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</td>
<td>History Club 4 Women’s Emmaus 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</td>
<td>Worship Roundtable</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday United Methodist Student Day</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Staff Mtg 5 Children’s Choir Evening Knitting Group</td>
<td>6:30 a Dawnbreakers No Youth Worship This Week</td>
<td>BBH CSD Thanksgiving Break Begins</td>
<td>Church Offices Closed</td>
<td>Church Offices Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENDS 11/3**
**PRAYERS**

God is honored when we pray.

Pray each day at noon for our church while we focus our minds and hearts on ways we can express our love for God, and ways we can become more faithful and generous.

Our noon prayer: God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus, and in the never ending gift of the Holy Spirit! May we live surrounded by God's mercy, inspired by the Spirit, open to the joy of God's presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward the world. A man.

Pray for our service members. They give up comforts so we can live in freedom. They leave their families behind to protect ours. They return changed by their experiences, and they are in need of our love and support. Pray for their families, too.

Pray for organ and tissue donors and for the patients and families who benefit from their selflessness.

For prayer resources from the United Methodist Church, visit [http://tinyurl.com/aqrsa8e](http://tinyurl.com/aqrsa8e)

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**GIFTS**

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the publication of the last Good Word.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Offering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>$8,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>$12,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>$4,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>$14,722</td>
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**PRESENCE**

We’ve set a goal of bringing 300 people together for worship on Sunday mornings. We fell short of this goal again this month. What’s keeping you from church on Sunday?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>8:30</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>10:00</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>-102</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>87</td>
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<td>-42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are some other ways you can be present in the life of the church this month?

**SERVICE**

Some ways you can be of service to others this month:

- Donate to the UMW’s “Fill the Bin for Brookside” campaign. Details in the Good Word!
- Volunteer to serve a meal through the Missions Committee. Contact Alan Scheufler: 440-526-1335
- Please consider taking a turn in the crib and toddler room. Volunteers are especially needed during the 11:15 worship service. This is an important ministry, and one way that our church family shows care for one another. If you can help, or need more information, please contact Jenny Gee: 440-526-8938.
- Do you have a ready smile? Do you like to make people feel welcome? Do you like to help others? Put your gifts for hospitality to good use—become an usher! Contact Cec in the church office to learn more!

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!
South Dakota church among fastest-growing
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Embrace Church is listed as the 40th fastest-growing church in America in an Outreach Magazine survey. Embrace is a 6-year-old church in the Dakotas Annual (regional) Conference that has grown to more than 1,300 in weekly attendance. Visit the church’s website at iamebrace.com.

Churches ‘star’ in movies, TV shows
PLANO, Ill. — The picturesque structures of United Methodist churches have been featured in dozens of films including such notable ones as “The Graduate,” “Back to the Future,” “Home Alone” and “The Godfather.” Three United Methodist churches were featured in three movies and a television show that premiered in 2013. United Methodist Church of Plano, Ill., was featured in “Man of Steel;” Trinity United Methodist Church in Southport, N.C., was in the HBO movie “Mary and Martha” and the CBS series “Under the Dome;” and New Haven and West Tulsa United Methodist churches in Oklahoma were the setting for the inspirational film “Home Run.”

Pianist serves Missouri church for 70 years
WHITEWATER, Mo. — For 70 years, Mildred Reynolds has put her hands on the piano keyboards to make the music that leads the Whitewater United Methodist Church in its worship. “I hope God will grant us many more years together,” Reynolds told the Southeast Missourian.

A call for prayer for Bishop Swanson
JACKSON, Miss. — Bishop James E. Swanson Sr., who leads the Mississippi Annual (regional) Conference and is the president of the Commission on United Methodist Men, is asking for prayer following his recent diagnosis of prostate cancer. He is scheduled for surgery Nov. 12.

Resources for laity Sunday
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Lay people make all the difference in The United Methodist Church, which is why the denomination celebrates Laity Sunday each year. This year’s celebration is Sunday, Oct. 20. United Methodist Board of Discipleship offers resources to celebrate and cultivate lay leaders. To learn more, go to gbod.org/planning-calendar/laity-sunday

Revised ‘Christian as Minister’ available
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A revised and updated edition of “The Christian as Minister: An Exploration Into the Meaning of God’s Call” is an introductory book for people considering God’s call to ministry. The book, published by the United Methodist Board of Higher Education and Ministry, also presents an overview of the avenues for ministry in The United Methodist Church. For more information, go to www.gbhem.org