Thank you!

Captain Nicole Fredrick and the 109th Transportation Company send their thanks for the Christmas stockings you assembled for Veterans Day. They brightened the holidays in Afghanistan. At their Christmas party every soldier had Christmas stocking stuffed with treats beside their place setting at the table. Everyone is looking forward to returning home before the end of January.

Jim and Liz Fredrick would also like to thank you for your support of the troops and their families with your gifts, kind words and prayers. We look forward to the day when all our troops come home.

Christmas Offering

Our 2013 Christmas Offering, totaling $5998 (so far) will be split equally between three important ministries. **Locally:** we will support the Cleveland Food Bank, which provides services for an 8 county area in northeast Ohio, serving 30,000 people per month. **Nationally:** we will support McCurdy Ministries, a UMC Mission in Espanola, New Mexico. **Internationally:** we will support Church World Service Blankets+ Project, providing sustainable development, disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world. Your giving touches lives at home and around the world. **Thank you!**

Sunday Mornings January 2014: We begin a new year with all the promise and opportunity of a fresh start. What has been holding you back from a fuller relationship with God? What has been standing in the way of you becoming the person God created you to be? What keeps you from fuller, more compassionate relationships with others? Join us on January 5 as we kick off a sermon and education series that will challenge you to overcome obstacles and dive into what is really important.

*Are you ready to go DEEPER?*
I think it no small coincidence that our celebrations of Christmas and welcoming in a New Year are so closely linked. The two events hold such wonderful promise for us. We hear once again the old, old story of God’s love for us revealed in the birth of Jesus, and then we welcome in yet another New Year. Both celebrations are ripe with potential. Both celebrations are places we have visited before, and will again, God willing. Yet, each time we “go there” are we simply repeating the rituals of years past, or do we really anticipate something new? God’s promise that God is about to do a new thing is as real for us as it was in Isaiah’s time and in Jesus’ time. God wants us to perceive the new thing. God is ready, waiting for our eyes to open, our ears to tingle, our noses to sniff, and our hands to touch. Are we able to enter into this time together with a sense of anticipation that we will be met like we’ve never been met before?

A little boy was working hard on a drawing and his daddy asked him what he was doing. The reply came back, “Drawing a picture of God.” His daddy said, “You can’t do that, honey. Nobody knows what God looks like.” But the little boy was undeterred and continued to draw. He looked at the picture with satisfaction and said very matter-of-factly, “They will in a few minutes.”

As we approach this New Year, may we do so with anticipation and wonder of what the picture will look like. God continues to draw, and rather than being certain we know what the picture looks like, maybe we need to just anticipate its unveiling. We certainly don’t know what is in store for each and every one of us. But, we can be certain that whatever it is, we can anticipate God’s presence and care, God’s knowledge of us and where we are. It’s hard sometimes to just enjoy the gift of the day. Yet in all of the hustle and bustle, in this time of new beginnings and time honored traditions and rituals, I pray you will anticipate something new, and find life revealed before you in new ways. Ways that linger and fuel your wonder and awe at the incredible God we worship, and the notion that you are noticed, and can be met in new and exciting ways.

Warmth and abiding peace,
Take Your Learning DEEPER with Video

Our church has embarked on an exciting venture! We have a one year subscription with Right Now Media which allows each and every person within our church family to access inspirational Bible studies any time, day or night. There are currently over 2,000 titles to choose from and as many as 1,000 more will be added throughout this year. All you need to do is log onto the site through the personal invitation you received from Melanie last month. Did the invitation get buried in your inbox? Just call the church office and Melanie will forward you another. When you log on for the first time you will be asked a few questions which will help create a more personal library for you. Each month we will highlight a few studies that might be useful to you to enhance the sermon series or the adult Sunday School classes. Can’t make it to class? Many of the videos we will be using in class will be available through this site too.

This month in Sunday School we are going DEEPER, as we take a good hard look at the priorities we have set for ourselves in life. We will be using pieces from a number of studies as different members of our church family lead us through the various lessons. Take a look at our church page, we have personalized it for our use this month. Check out some of the video lessons that focus on setting our priorities straight.

When the Game is Over…
John Ortberg

The wisest players remember that the game is going to end. By contrast, what is eternal is the love we have for Christ, the love we have for each other, and our own souls. While it’s not bad to be good at chess or Risk—or the game of life on earth—we can’t allow it to get in the way of what really matters.

Life On Track
Kerry Shook

Learn how to get intentional with your life and make the changes needed to go down the right track. The message found in Romans 12:1-2 teaches us how to line our lives up with the things that matter most because power flows through priorities.

Choose
Marcus Goodloe

What's the most spiritual thing you will do today? Prayer? Reading the Bible? Serving? The power of choice is one of the most important elements of our spiritual journey. Youth, either on their own or with their parents will hear from other students who made the choice to turn to God while dealing with various struggles within their lives.

Basics Series: We are the Church – Prayer
Francis Chan

Are we doing church the way the Bible instructs us? Are we “doing church” the way Jesus instructed his followers. This study encourages Christians to examine the early church and consider returning to the concept of church described in the Bible.

Prayer
Philip Yancy

Does prayer change us or God? Or both? Probe the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work?

Circle Maker
Mark Batterson

Gain a deeper understanding of prayer and, in turn, make a more consistent practice of prayer. Learn a new vocabulary and a new methodology to pray with confidence. The aim of this series is to

Joni and Friends – Season 3
Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni and Friends highlights a refreshingly honest approach to people’s toughest questions about the goodness of God in a world shattered by pain and suffering. In this series you will see paralyzed people in the poorest places on earth who are receiving wheelchairs and medical help, while having their situations and their families bathed in prayer.

Hermie: Milo the Mantis who wouldn’t Pray
Max Lucado

Why not peruse the children’s library of videos? Suggested this month is a video that talks to children about prayer and trusting in God.

When a big storm destroys Milo’s Snack Shack, he doesn’t know what to do—not even how to talk to God about it.
The Kiwanis Club of Brecksville and the Lions Club of Broadview Heights are hosting the Empty Bowls Dinner at the Gathering Room in the Brecksville Human Resources Center on Thursday, February 6 from 5—7:30 pm. Tickets are $10 each, with proceeds benefiting the Brecksville Food Bank and Lend-a-Hand in Broadview Heights.

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. The basic premise is simple: potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to organizations working to end hunger and food insecurity.

The Brecksville Center for the Arts and the Brecksville Broadview Heights High School Art Department have committed to making ceramic bowls and The North Coast Woodturners will make wooden bowls for the event.

Tickets are available through any Kiwanis or Lion’s Club Member. For additional information, please contact Kathy Sopka at 440-821-5203 or Bill Rittman 440-526-5618 or abrittman@sbcglobal.net.

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The Brecksville United Methodist Church Music Department Presents THE STEEL WHEELS: The Steel Wheels have enthralled audiences across the country with their heady brew of original soulful mountain music. Based in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, this dynamic band marries old-time musical traditions with their own innovative sound. Trent Wagler’s weathered tenor is joined by bell-clear four-part harmonies inspired by a shared Mennonite heritage. Add to this Eric Brubaker’s lively and evocative fiddle, Brian Dickel’s grounded yet buoyant upright bass, and Jay Lapp’s signature mandolin style, and it’s no surprise that The Steel Wheels have burst onto the Americana scene, becoming festival favorites and selling out venues across the country.

"Americana music at its very best!" said Larry Groce of Mountain Stage. Hear their music at www.thesteelwheels.com

Tickets are $10 and available in the church office, from Joy Parker, or online at www.eventbrite.com/e/the-steel-wheels-tickets-8388284585

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2nd Annual Music Department Scholarship

will be awarded to select High School Seniors who have participated in the music program during their time at BUMC and intend to continue as active musicians and worshipers as they pursue additional education.

Students may attend a 2-year, 4-year or non-traditional post-secondary institution; they need not major in music.

Scholarship applications are available on the church website, (under the BUMC Online Tab) or may be picked up in the church office.

Applications are due on Friday, February 14 by 5:00pm.

Winners will be announced at the Student Recital on Saturday, March 8, 2014.

(Recital applications are also available online!)
Want to be help out with Music with a Mission - - without singing or dancing?  Here’s your chance!

We are making gift baskets for our silent auction for this great annual fundraiser being held on Friday, February 28th, and we need donations.

The money we raise will help fund the youth mission trip this summer to Waterloo, Iowa. Baskets will be put together with the donated items, or if you’re feeling creative you can make up your own basket for the auction.

Please consider donating handmade items, baked goods, or even unwanted Christmas gifts (unopened and unused please!)

Questions? Ready to donate? Contact Michelle Shively at 440-838-0975 or bring your items to the church office during regular office hours before February 21. Thank you!

Hat & Mitten Tree

Your generous donations to this year’s Hat & Mitten Tree will warm the hearts and bodies of many through Cleveland’s Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center. We collected a grand total of 102 Hats, 15 hat/glove/scarf sets, 71 pair of gloves/mittens, 27 scarves, 25 pair of socks, 1 sleeper, 2 afghans, and 2 fleece.

Thank you one and all!
End Modern Day Slavery

Human Trafficking Awareness Day is January 11

Imagine traveling thousands of miles from your home country of Nigeria to Italy, with the promise of employment and the hope of helping your family out of poverty. You’ve been told that you’ll be working in a hair salon, but once you arrive you’re locked in a room and repeatedly raped. Why? Because you’re being prepared for the job you’ll have in your new country—that of a sex worker.

It sounds like the plot of a terrible movie, but it’s not fiction. Sister Anthonia Ugheighele shared this true story at a November luncheon in Cleveland, hosted by International Partners in Mission. Sister Anthonia is a project coordinator for IPM, working in Italy with women who are survivors of sex trafficking with the goal of helping them rediscover their human dignity. “Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, so we have got to stop it,” Sister Ugheighele said. “It’s growing fast. We have to fight to remove this evil from our society.”

At the same luncheon US Attorney Steven Dettelbach emphasized that human trafficking is not just something that happens across the sea. The United States is a source, transit and destination country for some of these men, women and children — both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals — who are subjected to the injustices of human trafficking including forced labor, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, and sex trafficking. It’s happening right here in Northeast Ohio, often in plain sight. Victims of human trafficking can be landscaping and agricultural workers, panhandlers, day laborers, factory and sweatshop workers, hotel workers and housekeepers. Victims are exploited by the service industries in restaurants, bars, strip clubs, nail salons, and similar businesses. Mr. Dettelbach asked all of us to be vigilant and aware, urging, “If you see something, say something.”

January 11 is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Let’s educate ourselves about trafficking and take action to end modern-day slavery.

How to Spot Human Trafficking: Compiled by the United Methodist Women

- Victims of human trafficking often live on or near their work premises, often with a large number of occupants in a small space. Bouncers, guards, guard dogs or barbed wire may be present. Many victims live in isolated areas.

- Victims lack private space, personal possessions and financial records and are kept under surveillance or are escorted by an employer when they are out in the community. The trafficker may act as a translator.

- The victim may be branded or have other scarring indicating ownership. Victims are often malnourished and may show signs of rape, sexual and physical abuse, posttraumatic stress and poor psychological health. They may have sexually transmitted diseases or other untreated medical problems.

- Brothels often contain barred windows, locked doors and electronic surveillance. Women do not leave the house unescorted, and men come and go frequently. Large amounts of cash and condoms are usually present, as is a customer receipt book.

For more information on how to spot trafficking, visit HumanTrafficking.org.
Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com

Have you received your 2014 Guidebook & Directory? It should be arriving this month, and includes names and phone numbers for our church family, a calendar of events for the year, and a section of answers to some frequently asked questions.

The directory is printed and mailed to us because of the generosity of local businesses who advertise in it. If you are a customer of one of these businesses, be sure to thank them for their support!

Our Guide Book is mailed to us with the help of Lafayette Industries, a St. Louis organization providing jobs for adults with developmental disabilities. This sheltered workshop was founded in 1976 by a caring group of parents seeking employment for their grown children with developmental disabilities who had finished the Special School District curriculum.

As you use your book throughout the year, take time to say a prayer of thanks for the people who sent it to you, for the people whose names appear in the book, and for the people we haven’t met yet whose names will be printed in the book next year!

If you do not receive a Guidebook, stop by the church office for a copy.

North Coast District
United Methodist Church
Leadership Academy 2014
For Laity and Clergy

Willing to Risk

Our day will include Registration, Refreshments, Worship, Workshops, Lunch, Shopping for Books, Farewell Gathering

Sermon by Rev. Dan Bagre, Senior Pastor, Rocky River United Methodist Church
“We’ve Got Nothing to Lose” — 2 Kings 7:1-20

Saturday, February 1, 2014
8:30 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
(Registration 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.)
Rocky River United Methodist Church
19414 Detroit Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116
440-331-7676

The 2014 Leadership Academy will be held at Rocky River UMC on February 1 from 8:30 or 9 am through 3 pm. It will open with worship at 9 am, followed by 32 different workshops in which you can attend two or three. Inspiration, meaningful worship, and workshops that present new approaches for living out the Gospel will make for a great day!

More details are available in the Leadership Academy brochure. Printed copies are available in the church office, or online at the link below.


Willing to Follow Jesus

Guidebook Directory

Puzzle Exchange
Bob Andree asked us to pass along this message: “A warm thank you to all who sent cards and visited me and sang with the choir at The Oaks while I recovered from knee replacement surgery. I look forward to returning to church soon!”

The family of Mary Lou Morris has asked us to share the news of her passing with the church family. Mrs. Morris had been received into membership here in 1983, and had been an active member of the United Methodist Women. She spent recent years living in Florida near her family. She is survived by her children Karen Morris, Noelle Silk, and Alan Morris. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael. A memorial service will be held here in Brecksville in the spring. An online memorial page will be established at www.crevassesimplecremation.com/memorials.

Kevin Schultz 01/01
Katherine Cline 01/02
Susan Loughner 01/02
Elizabeth Bellingham 01/03
Michelle Shively 01/03
Penny Lienert 01/03
Emily Vincent 01/03
Michael Patrick 01/03
Donna Sibits 01/04
Kaya Roberts 01/05
Nathan Machesky 01/06
Claudia Monnett 01/06
Margie Benedict 01/07
Autumn Lasich 01/07
David Vastartis 01/09
Cole Mihalich 01/09
James Vastartis 01/09
Nathaniel Hulten 01/10
Geraldine McMaster 01/11
Marc Vincent 01/11
Robert Carson 01/12
Shelba Meek 01/12
Diana Warth 01/13
Jennifer Hoffman 01/13
Steven Chen 01/14
Madelyn McBride 01/14
Marianne Nolan 01/15
Donna Houston 01/15
J. Scott Ford 01/15
Joy Parker 01/15
Sam Papp 01/15
Lois Moston 01/16
Aundrea Dumot 01/17
Eliot Sliifcak 01/17
Fred Loeffler 01/18
Jennifer Schneider 01/18
Ellen Martin 01/18
Kim Johnson 01/18
Jessica Zawada 01/18
Nathan Bender 01/20
Kaitlyn Ellis 01/20
Brian Meek 01/20
Patricia Gordon 01/21
Daniel Auble 01/21
Robert Nelson 01/22
Charles Cave 01/22
Robert Lundholm 01/24
Emily Loughner 01/24
Katherine Hurder 01/25
Colin Crouch 01/25
Susan Hastings 01/26
Kimberly Cave 01/28
Donna Culley 01/28
Nicholas Campbell 01/28
Lona Seifert 01/29
Donald Salsbury 01/30
Jill Magistro 01/30
Kathy Goebel 01/31
Donald Magee 01/31
Our Sunday school collections this year are going to the organization Smile Train. Their goal is to ensure that every child, anywhere in the world, that is born with a cleft lip or palate and is unable to pay for surgery will be able to live a full and productive life by having surgery and related services.

Every year over 170,000 children are born with a cleft lip or palate and most cannot afford surgery. The cleft is not just uncomfortable to look at but presents medical problems - most children cannot eat, breathe or speak properly. Millions of children in some developing countries with unrepaird clefts are not allowed to attend school or, as they get older, hold a job. Every baby born in Uganda with a cleft is given the name Ajok which means literally, “cursed by God.” Some newborns are killed or abandoned right after birth.

Smile Train, a non-profit organization, provides free cleft and palate surgery to poor children in developing countries. Cleft repair surgery is simple and the transformation is immediate. Their sustainable model provides training and funding to empower local doctors in 85+ developing countries to provide 100% free cleft repair surgery in their communities. Their model consists of a surgery that costs $250 and can take as little as 45 minutes.

Smile Train By The Numbers

\[
\begin{align*}
958,996 & \quad \text{number of surgeries performed since they started in} \\
1250,000+ & \quad \text{number of surgeries performed this year} \\
87 & \quad \text{number of countries where surgeries have been performed} \\
2,100+ & \quad \text{number of Smile Train partner surgeons} \\
60 & \quad \text{number of Smile Train staff members} \\
1,100 & \quad \text{number of Smile Train partner hospitals} \\
2.7 \text{ million} & \quad \text{number of Smile Train donors who enable their free cleft lip and palate surgery and anciliary programs}
\end{align*}
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In addition to our Sunday school contributions we are having a Dodge Ball tournament and all proceeds will benefit Smile Train!

Saturday, February 15, 2014

At Ridgewood United Methodist Church (6330 Ridge Rd., Parma, OH 44129)

Look for Registration Forms at church

Want to read more? Go to www.brecksvilleumc.com
**BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  www.brecksvilleumc.com

**JANUARY 2014**

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<td>11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day</td>
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<td>7a Emmaus Reunion</td>
<td>12 BUMC Hosts Northcoast District UMW Leadership Training</td>
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<td>17 7a Emmaus Reunion</td>
<td>18 8a Cleveland Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity</td>
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<td>6 Bible Study</td>
<td>7 Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Observance, Church Offices Closed</td>
<td>8 6:30 Dawnbrkr</td>
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<td>25 7a Emmaus Reunion</td>
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