



The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation



February 2016 Issue ~ Published January 22, 2015
Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

We Begin our Journey of Lent

The season of Lent begins on February 10 with Ash Wednesday and culminates in our Easter celebration on Sunday, March 27. During the Sundays of Lent, we are excited to announce a sermon series based on the lyrics from the Beatles song of the same name. Look for some fabulous artwork and funny surprises along the way!



- February 14 - "Nothing You Can Do That Can't Be Done" [Luke 4:1-13]
- February 21 - "Nothing You Can See That Isn't Shown" [Luke 13:31-35]
- February 28 - "Nowhere You Can Be That Isn't Meant to Be" [Luke 13:1-9]
- March 6 - "No One You Can Save Who Can't Be Saved" [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32]
- March 13 - "Love is All You Need" [John 12:1-11]

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a service of personal reflection that begins our observance of Lent. This reflective service invites you to humble yourself and be honest about areas in which you have fallen short in the past year. The imposition of ashes--having the sign of the cross gently placed on your hand or forehead--is a powerful and important practice, and it prepares you to walk with Jesus all the way to the cross and into new life. You are warmly invited to participate in this time-honored and meaningful tradition at 7:30pm on Wednesday, February 10, in the Sanctuary.



Lenten Retreat We are thrilled to welcome musician and clinician Richard Bruxvoort Colligan for a weekend of music, worship and self-discovery on March 18-20. **This is a "stay-at-home" retreat**, so you get all the benefits of a weekend getaway without the expense and stress of finding lodging and meals. Events include Friday evening worship, a workshop on Saturday, a Saturday evening concert, and Richard will join us in worship on Sunday morning for our Palm Sunday celebration. There will be a nominal fee associated with the workshop, and additional details will become available in the coming weeks. Plan to be a part of this wonderful opportunity for education and renewal!

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED



All You Need is Love

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

1 Corinthians 13

8:45 Contemporary Worship

10 Education Hour

Classes for All Ages!

11:15 Traditional Worship

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February holds many good things in its heart. One of the good things is Valentine's Day, and this year, it is on a Sunday. As a part of our special celebration together on that morning, those who may wish will be afforded an opportunity to reaffirm their wedding vows to each other. I am excited that many couples have already informed us of their intention to participate.

Lent also begins in the middle of February. It seems to be a bit early this year, as Ash Wednesday will kick off our observance on February 10. I have spent some time with our talented staff around a theme and sermon series for Lent. You will be seeing more about this in other communications, but we have settled on the idea of "All You Need Is Love" as our theme. I really think that it fits us in so many different ways.

We are people who are created to be in relationship together. Some of that is by choice, as in the ones we marry ourselves to, other parts of those relationships happen by geography, or we are born into them, not by our choice at all. Lent calls us to examine those relationships a bit more closely. If love is our true center, we may come to appreciate with a new heart those we have made commitments to by choice. My prayer is that we will also recommit to a loving approach to people we contact by chance. Both ends of this string are held in tension, and this love approach is not always easy. Yet, as we walk once again with Jesus all the way to the cross and to new life, I believe that we will once again find that love is sufficient.

There is much rhetoric in the world today that encourages us to mistrust those who are not like us. Some even advocate building walls to keep us one from another. Violence seems to be a bit more common, and people are advocating that everyone arm themselves. The life of Jesus points to a more excellent way. Won't you make time to join us, as we journey through Lent together, and reaffirm in tangible and intangible ways that "All You Need Is Love"?

Keeping the Faith,

OLD CELL PHONES WANTED



Have an old cell phone collecting dust and using up space in your junk drawer? Why not recycle it?

Bring your old phone to the coat room collection bin for safe recycling, and earn money for our church Missions Fund!



Our January Coffee Hour hosts will be

Finance

Thank you, January hosts
United Methodist Women!



Brecksville
United
Methodist
Women

Simple Meals to Cheer

Wednesday, February 3

The Evening Circle will be making simple meals of soup and bread to deliver to those in need of a pick-me-up. Want to help prepare the meals? Come to the kitchen on Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm.

"Understanding American Hobos"

Thursday, February 4

Come hear David Gates, of the Summit County Historical Society present "Understanding American Hobos." The morning begins at 9:30 with a continental breakfast and fellowship. Following the 10:00 program, there will be a short meeting. Everyone is welcome....and bring a friend.

Asbury Bremeth Circle,

Thursday, February 11

Ladies, come join the circle on the second Thursday of each month! We gather in the Parlor at 9:30 for a continental breakfast, and at 10 we'll resume our study of John Ortberg's *Soul Keeping*, lead by Director of Christian Education, Jenny Gee. It's a wonderful time of fellowship and learning.

Soup Drive for Brookside

The focus for our Brookside Food Center food drive this month is soup. Drop a can or two of soup in the collection bin in the first floor coat room by Feb. 18!

MUSIC WITH A MISSION ON THE SILVER SCREEN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

An Evening of Fun Benefiting the
Youth Service Project Summer Mission Trip

Awesome MC's, great songs and sketches,
and a delicious dinner cooked and served
by our YSP youth.

6 pm—Doors Open, Silent Auction Begins.

6:30 pm—Dinner is Served.

7 pm—Auction Closes. Show Begins Soon After.

Tickets are \$15 each (maximum of \$50 for a family)

Seating is limited! Get your tickets this Sunday!

See you on the red carpet

Don't miss Music with a Mission this year! We've planned a fabulous celebration that includes a red carpet, paparazzi and the opportunity to have your photo taken in front of our Oscar-themed backdrop. You are invited (though not required) to dress up for your red carpet appearance and a night of great entertainment! Doors open at 6 pm, and silent auction baskets will be available. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm, and the show will start a little after 7 as dessert is served. Show-stopping numbers include "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better" from *Annie*, *Get Your Gun*; "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" from *Roberta* (starring Ginger Rogers & Fred Astaire); all the way up to "Old Time Rock and Roll" from *Stranger in Town* and "I'm a Believer" from *Shrek*. You are in for a wonderful evening, so dust off your tuxedo and get your tickets now!



Do you have news to share?
 Contact Melanie!
 office@brecksvilleumc.com or
 440-526-8938

Prayers of joy have gone out for the birth of Hadley Rae Spencer, daughter of Greg and Amber Spencer. Happy grandparents are Mark and Lynn Spencer.

“A special thank you to all for caroling for my father, Philip Hines, last month; thanks also to Craig Czarnota for organizing this outing. Your visit was a special treat for Dad as well as his caregiver. Dad loves Christmas carols so he greatly enjoyed the music as well as your fellowship time with him. Thank you also for keeping him in your prayers as he ages and deals with health issues. **You are all very appreciated!**”
 - Nancy (Hines) Marsh

Marisol Wylie extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has called, sent cards, prayed for and visited her. It warms her heart and she hopes to be back on her feet and at church soon.

Save the Date

Now that temperatures have finally dropped, we could all use a little reminder of the Spring to come! Mark your calendars for our Annual Scholarship Golf Outing, to be held on Saturday, June 18, at Briarwood Country Club. There are so many ways you can get involved and be a part of this incredibly fun and family-friendly event that enables our Music/Worship Scholarship for graduating seniors.



Doris Cipolla	1	Stephanie Fisher	17
Grant Kardos	1	Grace Ford	17
Douglas Hubert	2	Christine Hudacek	17
Gail Meyer	2	Emma Piorkowski	17
Colin Johnson	3	Scott Campbell	18
Barbara Soltis	4	Jack Kenney	18
Dave AuWerter	5	Allie Kenney	19
Faith McAllister	5	Sally Bibler	20
Lynn Spencer	5	Nancy Hoyer	20
Bob Andree	6	Matthew Ling	20
Paul Olszko	6	Dan Rajkovich	22
Chloe Boldt	7	Steve Warth	22
Becky Chen	8	Erin Gee	23
Nancy Knowlton	8	Janet Kleckner	24
Courtney Scheff	8	Eric Louttit	24
Chad Boldt	9	Olive Priest	24
Sarah Nurre	9	Nancy Wygonski	25
Bob Williams	9	Darcie Engler	27
Pam Johnson	10	Angela Harper	27
Marge Webb	10	Emily Hastings	27
		Taylor Whitton	27



As people of faith, we find God's presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings this month, we lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. People like the Sendrey and Johnson Families who prepared and served our December youth dinner; Jessica Scott, who so willingly steps in to help with the nursery;

Bev Huber, who coordinates our Acolytes and so helpful in so many other ways; Sheridan Patrick, who quietly gives of herself by serving as a Sunday School teacher; Monica Kotnik who lead the high school Sunday School class on Sunday when Courtney was away; and Craig Kotnik who blessed the congregation with a beautiful guitar solo during the offertory on January 17.

The Trustees Committee extends a hearty “thank you!” to the people from the congregation and Boy Scout Troop 175 who helped with the church yard clean up on December the 7th. Thanks to you the church yard was ready for winter!



Don't miss the opportunity to learn and grow and to develop friendships within your church family during the 10 o'clock education hour on Sunday mornings. Kids, check the Sunday School board in the lobby for your classrooms. Lenten classes for adults begin February 21:

My Faith Story
Facilitated by Kendall Lancaster

Stories are powerful. We all love stories, especially ones that help us see something in a more profound way. As a person of faith, you have a powerful story to tell. Join Kendall Lancaster throughout Lent as he helps you focus and reflect on how different people, places and events have shaped your own personal faith story. This class will help you to begin to articulate the significance of your faith in a way others can understand.

Travel Through the Holy Land
Facilitated by Rev. Clark Stein

Make plans to join Pastor Clark in the Chapel for an exciting video and discussion opportunity. We will be working on stories from the Holy Land, examining the geography, what happened where, and just how we feel the impact of these events in our present day life of faith. Come experience the stories of the bible in their historical context, and join the discussion about why they still matter. Each week will stand on its own, so drop ins are always welcome!



Walk the Labyrinth
Self Guided

The labyrinth will be set up for your use in the Chapel all throughout Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday during regular building hours. If you have walked the labyrinth before you know it is a wonderful meditative tool that can help deepen your time of prayer and reflection. If you have never walked a labyrinth before, make a plan to do so early in Lent, we are sure you will want to return to use it again and again.

Labyrinths date back thousands of years. They have been found in burial sites in Egypt, carved into rocks in England, and traced on pottery and coins from the Island of Crete. Labyrinth symbolize wholeness by creating a purposeful path which combines the imagery of a circle and a spiral. The Labyrinth represents a journey to our own center and back again out into the world. Take the opportunity to walk the Labyrinth this Lent and rediscover this ancient mystical tradition.



Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate Valentine's Day?

Renew your wedding vows
at Brecksville United Methodist Church.

Join us in the Sanctuary at 10 am on February 14 for a special celebration of love. During a short ceremony, couples will be invited as a group to join in a rite of marriage renewal. There will be special music and a slideshow of wedding photos. After the ceremony, we will celebrate with a cake and punch reception in Fellowship Hall.

To participate, contact the office with your wedding date. To be included in the slide show, e-mail a copy of your wedding photo* to office@brecksvilleumc.com. If you RSVP by February 9, renewal of vow certificates will be printed and available for pick up after the service.

Share the love! The vow renewal service is a great opportunity to invite others to Brecksville United Methodist Church. If you know someone who might want to renew their vows, tell them about it!

**The photo is optional! Submit a photo if you'd like it to be included in the slideshow.*

BUDGET REPORT



Our Church Family is such a blessing in the way we support our Church. 2015 was a challenging year financially. We started 2015 without a balanced budget. As an emergency measure, Administrative Board approved a \$23,947 transfer from the General Reserves to the Operating Budget. And yet we still were \$5,200 short of a balanced budget.

All areas of our church carefully managed their spending. When Chris Toth unfortunately left mid-year as our organist, we were able to save his wage expense for the rest of the year. Our Church Family kept reasonably current with their pledges during the year, and in November and December our Church Family contributed more than we expected. All of those factors combined to result in a surplus of \$13,800 over expenses. With everyone's help, we ended 2015 in the black. Thank you!

This Fall, we all experienced the new "Heart of Giving" Pledge Campaign. In powerful messages in Pastor Stein's Sermons, the Stewardship Moments, and the Daily Devotionals, we explored these important messages from God:

Everything belongs to God. *Psalms 24:1.*

We are mere stewards of God's many gifts to us.

God calls upon us to multiply those gifts, and return them to God's glory!

Matthew 25:18 - 30

We start 2016 in a more sound position financially. We have received 143 pledges so far (compared to 155 in 2015), for total pledged of \$426,194. This includes 7 families who have been regular non-pledge givers in the past, plus 9 additional pledging families who are new or returning to our Church Family. There are also an additional 24 families that have regularly pledged in past years who we hope and pray will yet bless us with renewed pledges for 2016.

This strong witness and support from our Church Family has enabled a balanced 2016 Budget which was approved by Administrative Board at the January meeting. Praise and Glory to God!

For the first time, you can now see our Church's 2015 Year-End Financial Report, and 2016 Budget on our church website under the "Giving/Financial Reports" tab. We invite you to visit this tab quarterly for regular updates. If you ever want more financial detail or explanations, please contact Alan Scheufler (440-526-1335).

MUSIC News



In January, Joy Parker (Director of Music) had the opportunity to attend a short conference in Morristown, NJ, that focused specifically on choral music. One session dealt with body mapping, a practice that--when done correctly--helps singers manage their bodies in a way that avoids tension and leads to a beautiful sound. Another session focused on improving rehearsal technique such that directors get the most out of the limited time they have with their choirs. Three sessions introduced directors to beautiful new music that is being written for choral groups, and there were several well-known living composers (Francisco Nunez, Bob Chilcott,

Jim Papoulis, Richard McKee) on hand to share their music with the group. It was a wonderful, edifying and encouraging weekend!

In late February and early March, Joy will be traveling again, this time to Liberia (in West Africa) with a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team. The team is focused on educational goals and will participate in both direct classroom instruction and pedagogy (teacher training) during their two weeks at Camphor Mission. Outside of school hours, the team will lead book/bible studies with young people, participate in worship, and provide musical activities for the children and youth. They are taking a variety of supplies and resources for the school, including six ukuleles! They plan to teach the young people some simple chords and songs so that they can make music together long after the team returns to the United States. Please keep Joy in your prayers as she travels. The music program will be supported by Brenda Calovini (piano at 8:45 worship), Susan Clark (organ at 11:15 worship), and a variety of guest musicians while Joy is abroad.



Music/Worship Scholarship Program

The Music Department is proud to announce the

4th Annual

Music Department Scholarship that will be awarded to deserving High School and/or College Seniors who have participated in the music program during their time at Brecksville United Methodist Church 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, brecksvilleumc.com/forms or may be picked up in the church office.

Applications are due on Friday, March 4 by 5 pm.

Winners will be announced at the Student Recital on Saturday, April 9, 2016.

THE SUNDAY BLAST

A weekly e-mail Newsletter. *Sunday Song Titles, Scripture Readings, Announcements, Upcoming Events and More.* To subscribe, e-mail office@brecksvilleumc.com



YSP PAYMENT DUE

Are you planning on joining us this summer in Somerville, Tennessee, for our annual Youth Service Project? All students in 9th grade or older are invited to come! This week will include a night in Nashville, an afternoon in Memphis, and a week of service for our brothers and sisters in need. What more could you want?! All participants must commit by February 14th with a \$100 deposit. Feel free to contact Courtney at youth@brecksvilleumc.com with questions or for more information!

YAC REGISTRATION

It may seem early, but it's already time to start thinking about Youth Annual Conference 2016! All middle and high school students are invited to join us, June 10-12, for this awesome weekend at Lakeside. For more information, or to reserve your spot, contact Courtney at youth@brecksvilleumc.com.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

- ▶ Confirmation Retreat – This month, our 8th grade students will spend a weekend at Camp Asbury for the East Ohio Conference's annual Confirmation Retreat! Please pray for our students as they grow together in relationships and faith while learning more about the history of our Methodist traditions.
- ▶ Twice Blessed Free Store – Confirmation students, don't forget that our second trip to the Twice Blessed Free Store at Nehemiah Mission is this month, February 27th! We'll spend another morning helping customers, organizing donations, and actively showing Christian love to our brothers and sisters in need.

ALL YOUTH

Snow Tubing – Families, mark your calendars! All middle and high school students and their families are invited to go snow tubing at Brandywine after church on February 21. Look for more details to come!

Valentine's Day Youth Dinner – Sixth through twelfth graders, you won't want to miss this one. Join us in Fellowship Hall this Valentine's Day for a special dinner, prepared by two of our very own church staff, Joy and Jenny! Dinner begins at 6 pm and high school students

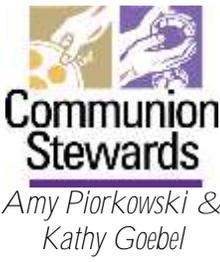
are invited to stay from 7-8 pm for youth group. The dinner is free, but to make sure that there's enough food for you, please RSVP to Courtney at youth@brecksvilleumc.com or by texting (440)537-5508. See you there!





February

BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
 <p>Communion Stewards Amy Piorkowski & Kathy Goebel</p>	<p>1 4:15 Cantus 5 Choraliars 5:30 Kickbox 7 Community Chorus 7:30 Scouts</p>	<p>2 10 Staff Mtg. 5 Children's Choir 7 Evangelism</p>	<p>3 6:30 am Dawnbreakers 3 Middle School Youth 7 Evening Circle</p>	<p>4 9:30 UMW 5 Men's Small Group 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p> 	<p>5 Today through Sunday: Confirmation Retreat</p>	<p>6 9:30 Zumba</p>	
<p>7 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 7 High School Youth Group</p> <p><i>Super Bowl Sunday</i></p>	<p>8 4:15 Cantus 5 Choraliars 5:30 Kickbox 7 Community Chorus 7:30 Scouts</p>	<p>9 11 Staff Mtg. 5 Children's Choir 7 COM 8 COE 8 Music & Worship Bd</p>	<p>10 6:30 am Dawnbreakers 3 Middle School Youth 7:30 Ash Wednesday Worship</p>	<p>11 9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle 5 Men's Small Group 6:15 Bells 7:30 Choir</p> 	<p>12 5 Fridays@5 Choir</p>	<p>13 9:30 Zumba</p>	
<p>14 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Wedding Vow Renewal Service 10:30 Reception 11:15 Worship 6 First Sunday Youth Dinner 7 High School Youth Group</p>	<p>15 4:15 Cantus 5 Choraliars 5:30 Kickbox 7 Community Chorus 7 Staff Parish Relations 7:30 Scouts</p>	<p>16 10 Staff Mtg. 10 Knitting 5 Children's Choir 7 Missions 7 Gifts & Memorials 7:30 Trustees</p>	<p>17 6:30 am Dawnbreakers 3 Middle School Youth</p>	<p>18 5 Men's Small Group 7—10 Music with a Mission Rehearsal</p> 	<p>19 <i>Good Word Deadline</i> <i>Food Delivery to Brookside</i> 6:30 Music with a Mission</p> 	<p>20 9:30 Zumba</p>	
<p>21 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship 4 Liberia Mission Mtg. 7 High School Youth Group</p>	<p>22 5:30 Kickbox 7 Community Chorus 7:30 Scouts</p>	<p>23 10 Staff Mtg. 5 Children's Choir 7 Finance</p>	<p>24 6:30 am Dawnbreakers 3 Middle School Youth</p>	<p>25 5 Men's Small Group 7:30 Choir</p> 	<p>26 9:30 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p>27 <i>GCFS Flute Festival</i> 9:30 Zumba 6 Ecumenical Chapel Service at Chippewa Confirmands at Twice Blessed</p>	
<p>28 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> 8:45 Worship 10 Coffee & Classes 11:15 Worship with Baptism 7 High School Youth Group</p>	<p>29 5:30 Kickbox 7 Community Chorus 7:30 Scouts</p>	<p>Walk the Labyrinth... The Labyrinth will be set up in the Chapel every day from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. Visit the labyrinth for reflection and meditation throughout the season of Lent.</p>					