As Joy Parker concludes her ministry here, we will be collecting a love offering in support of a very special project she started in Liberia called the LITE Project (Liberian Initiative for Technology in Education). Read all about the project and all of the people involved in it at www.liteproject.org

As part of the project, Joy and Michael Lee will be installing a computer lab at W. P. L. Brumskine United Methodist School in Grand Bassa County in July. This is a school with which the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has a partnership and to which we send many scholarship students.

The lab is based on a technology called Raspberry Pi 3, which allows them to install 20 desktop computers plus a server for a little under $4,000 US dollars, compared to a typical estimate of $25,000 or more to install a traditional computer lab in Liberia.

Each school that gets a lab takes responsibility for preparing the space including proper desk, chairs, and electricity (whether city grid or generator).

Join us in surrounding this worthwhile project with love and prayer.

Don’s Wheelchair Ramp

One of the blessings of being in relationship is that we discover moments when the resources of one align with the needs of another. In our church, we have individuals who consistently give money to be used in support of Nehemiah Mission, a Methodist mission station right here in East Ohio. In conversation with director Jim Szakacz, we learned that the amount of money accrued in our Nehemiah Mission account aligned with an acute need right here in our Cleveland Community.

Don, in Parma, is in need of a wheelchair ramp. Don will turn 70 this year and has lived his life with cerebral palsy. More recently, Don has suffered a stroke and recently had a knee replacement operation. He has required a wheelchair ramp for quite some time and is currently renting a unit, but the rental cost is nearly 30% of his monthly income. The rental ramp is also not up to code and has an unsafe incline. Nehemiah Mission desires to change that.

During the week of July 10-14, a team from Wooster, Ohio, will take up residence at Nehemiah Mission and spend their week in service building Don’s wheelchair ramp. The $1400 in our Nehemiah Mission account is just the right amount of money to provide the wood and other materials to complete this ramp. Our Mission/Outreach Committee voted unanimously to put this $1400 behind the project, and we’re excited to share a “before” photo with you today. In next month’s Good Word, you will see “after” pictures of the safe, new, up-to-code wheelchair ramp built through our resources, Wooster’s labor, and the faithfulness of the Nehemiah Mission team.

Thank you, Brecksville, for your generosity!
“It’s not fair!” How often do we hear these words? A wealthy landowner needs workers for his vineyard. So, he goes out throughout the day and employs people in need of work. In fact, in one instance he even asks, “Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?” They answer, “Because no one has hired us.” The vineyard owner employs them as well. Everything seems to be okay until the end of the day. When the day’s work is done, regardless of when the workers entered the vineyard, he pays them the exact same wage. And that would be bad enough, but he pays the last to come in first, and the first to come in last. Can you imagine that? The ones who came on the job at 5:00, just an hour or two before sundown, got the same pay as those who had worked from the early sunrise. You can only imagine the grumbling by those early ones as they stood at the back of the line…and rightly so, wouldn’t you say?

Ah, but this story challenges our feelings by suggesting to us that what we would term as fair is not what is important. It is what helps that makes the difference. It is what helps that is important. Jesus told this story about a wealthy man. He had the power to do anything he wanted. He could help; but the people grumbled at the way in which he helped.

We, who tend to grumble, must begin to realize that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is about grace. Not morality, not decency, not being watchdogs of the public welfare. The Gospel doesn’t have to do with our goodness except as some kind of by-product, and it really doesn’t have anything to do with our trying to become salty and radiant on our own. It is about the business of so steeping ourselves in the goodness and grace of Jesus, that the beauty of his spirit and the brightness of his light reflects in our lives. It is God’s extra. It is the way God deals with us beyond what we deserve or feel we have earned. For in spite of all of our grumbling…it is not what is fair that makes the difference…it is what helps.

God’s Peace,

Announcement from Staff Parish Relations

At the May 23rd Staff Parish Committee meeting, Pastor Clark’s request for a sabbatical from June 26 through July 23 was approved. He will use this time to rest and refresh his spirit. During his absence, very talented members of our congregation will lead worship.

July 2: Joy Parker (One service at 10 am)
July 9: Michael Jaszczak, Certified Lay Servant  Can They See You In Me?
July 16: John Brachna, Certified Lay Servant  Planting the Seeds of Love
July 23: Rev. Kathy Dickriede  Waiting and Anticipating

We look forward to seeing you in church and welcoming Pastor Clark’s return on July 24.
**New Trees Planted.** With your generous donations, the Trustees Committee has undertaken improvements of the Church Grounds along Brecksville Road. Dead and overgrown plants in the beds along Route 21 have been removed and four new trees have been planted. Shade tolerant and low maintenance, our new plants will help create a warm welcome to church and to our community! Have questions about this project? Ask a Trustee!

**Summer Choir, July 30**
Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to gather in the Sanctuary at 9:15 to learn a simple piece to share during the offertory time at the 10:00 worship service once a month in the summer. Let’s make a joyful noise together on July 30. Hope you’ll join us!

**Detergent Drive for Brookside**
Our focus for this month’s collection for Brookside Food Center is detergent—both dish and laundry. These items cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits and are among the most needed items at the Center. Let’s help our brothers and sisters in Cleveland stay clean and healthy. Bring your donations to the first floor donation bin by Thursday, July 20!

**Traveling this summer? Consider visiting another church!**
There’s a handy online tool to help you find a United Methodist Church anywhere! www.umc.org/find-a-church

Bring us your vacation bulletins! If we get enough of them, we’ll make a “Vacation Bulletin” bulletin board!

Easter Seals is partnering with The United Methodist Women to give back to the community while helping children and adults with disabilities. Help them “Fill the Truck” with your no longer wanted cloth items and small household goods.

Bring your cloth items, small kids’ toys and games, books, CDs, DVDs, kitchenware, wall hangings, knickknacks and jewelry to the truck parked in the church parking lot on Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. Your donations are tax deductible and receipts provided upon request.

It’s a great way to free up some space in your closets while helping people in need. For more information, call 440-526-8938.

*If you need to bring your donations sooner, a collection area will be set up in the church Fellowship Hall after Vacation Bible School starting Sunday, July 30. No donations will be accepted before that time. Thank you!*
Time's Running Out.
Register for Vacation Bible School Today!

The countdown is on for Vacation Bible School! Our theme is superheroes and all children from pre-school to fifth grade are invited to soar with us at what we are calling Hero Central! This superhero adventure includes music that makes you want to get up and dance, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, delicious snacks, great games and more. Together we will explore how, through God, we can 'power-up' and discover our inner strength! Volunteers are still needed to help make this awesome week a reality. We could still use some help throughout the week. If you can lend a hand, call the church office to sign up! Can't help that week? Consider joining us anytime between noon and 7:00 pm on Thursday, July 6. Contact Jenny Gee for answers to any questions: 440-526-8938 x 230 or education@brecksvilleumc.com.

VBS Decorating Days. Join us on Thursday, July 6 to help create some super-decorations as we transform Brecksville UMC into a super-city fit for our superheroes. Hero Central VBS begins on July 17 from 9 am - noon. We could still use some help throughout the week. If you can lend a hand, call the church office to sign up! Can't help that week? Consider joining us anytime between noon and 7:00 pm on Thursday, July 6. Contact Jenny Gee for answers to any questions: 440-526-8938 x 230 or education@brecksvilleumc.com.

Snack Attack
Sign up to provide one of the grocery items from a list which will be available after worship on Sundays July 2 & 9. You can help give our VBS participants a healthy snack each day.

You’re our heroes!
Thank you for your support!
On Saturday, July 8, an intergenerational team will leave from Brecksville UMC for Liberia, West Africa. This 9-member team includes Janet Kleckner, Joy Parker, Eric Louttit, Chuck Bentler, Allie Kenney, Michael Lee, Jenna Schroedel, Sydney Hudacek, and Megan Louttit. The team will spend two weeks at Camphor Mission providing an enhanced Vacation Bible School program, using our VBS curriculum from the past two summers Surf Shack! and G-Force.

In addition to daily Scripture readings, Bible stories, songs and recreation, the team will also provide an expanded curriculum based on the daily Scripture and Bible story. These lessons will include reading and English activities, science experiments, math lessons, and creative writing. Members of our BUMC team will team teach with alumni students of Camphor Mission in order to learn from one another, cross language barriers, and build friendship and partnership with these gifted young people.

Our church family has so graciously supported this mission journey. You have decorated placemats, and your $10 placemat sponsorships raised enough funds to provide a daily meal for every participating child for one week of our programming. Your generous giving during the Christmas offering raised the funding to provide meals during our second program week. An anonymous donor from the church gave $2000 in scholarship money to support our youth/college students who are traveling to Liberia. Though nine people will go forth to Liberia, so many individuals have been a part of this team through your grace and generosity.

**Our team has one more request. Would you support us with your prayers during the time we are traveling, July 8-24?**

We ask, specifically, that you hold the following requests in your hearts as we are in Liberia and traveling.

- Pray for grace and understanding between team members as we spend long days together.
- Pray for safety and strength during long hours of travel and in the hot, rainy conditions in Liberia in July.
- Pray for meaningful relationships to be built and strengthened between American and Liberian team members.
- Pray that students’ minds and hearts would be open to learn helpful academic skills and, more important, to experience the love of Jesus.
- That the love of God would guide all we say and do, and that team members and students alike would be strengthened in their own relationship with God.

Thank you for reaching out in the grace of God to bless the community at Camphor Mission through our team!
On June 3, our church hosted our second Engage Worship Event. Designed to appeal to families, Engage offered interactive prayer stations, crafty activities, storytelling, worship, and a simple meal. The focus of the event was human value and dignity. We packed toiletry kits for those affected by poverty or disaster, decorated placemats for Camphor Mission’s summer school in Liberia, and heard about the parable of The Good Samaritan. There were about 20 people in attendance. One family had not attended here before. Another shared that Sunday mornings are so difficult for them now that they have an infant - but Saturday evenings work great!

Why did we try something as different as Engage? First, it was a new way to tell people about God’s far reaching love and grace. Second, if we don’t do more to appeal to young families, the end is near for our church. Think that’s an exaggeration? Consider this...

A full third of the beautiful souls associated with this church family (not just members) are age 60 or older. There are 116 members of this church age 25 to 39, but only 27 of them have attended church even once this year. Our membership numbers are holding steady, but the majority of our new members are confirmands. Few of our college graduates are returning for Sunday services in adulthood. They move away or follow the national trend of considering church attendance less important than generations past. On Sunday morning, count the 20-somethings sitting with you in the pews. It won’t take long. That’s the bad news.

The good news is that we looked at the demographics of the area and we learned that there are over 5,000 families with children at home in Broadview Heights alone, and more than a third of those are Protestants or have no religious affiliation. Using a demographics tool provided by the United Methodist Church called Mission Insight we learned that people living in this community are attracted to hands on mission; that they are interested in the environment; and they like coaching, inspirational worship.

In February, Jenny Gee, our Director of Christian Education, and Joy Parker, our Director of Outreach, attended a workshop presented by the East Coast District about Messy Church, a fast-growing ministry that engages people and builds relationships with those who are not involved in a church. Messy Church uses Christ-centered activities for all ages built around hospitality, creativity, and celebration.

Through all of this study and exploration, Engage was born. Using what was learned in the workshop, adapting it to our church, and keeping our community’s needs and interests in mind, we came up with this new outreach for families and we gave it a try.

In her episcopal address at Annual Conference, Bishop Tracy Malone asked churches to “commit to face more outward toward your neighbors, your community, with the same care and passion you show each other. We do real good loving on each other. If we could just turn outward that same love and that same passion, how many more people could we draw to Christ and to his church? I am convinced that God can do far more abundantly than what we can think of, ask for, or even imagine.” And then she said, “Here is my ask for each congregation over this next conference year: to commit to engaging in at least one new bold courageous mission or ministry, or even the expansion of one. One that will share the love of Christ, extend an invitation to know Christ, and the opportunity to grow in Christ, to expand your reach and witness beyond your four walls, to build and deepen the church’s relationship with the community, and engage in justice and advocacy.” Amen! (See Bishop Malone’s complete address at www.ecumc.com/eoac17)

Bishop Malone asks us to consider this question as we move forward this year. “Where is it that we will place our emphasis with the goal of doing something new, bold and courageous?” We have been richly blessed. Let us move forward full of hope for the future!
Event recap: YAC 2017, Live it! A group of seven of our students traveled to Lakeside, Ohio from June 9 to 11 for Youth Annual Conference. We had a wonderful time eating lunch in the pavilion, playing putt-putt, eating donuts, and getting to know other students from around the East Ohio Conference. We were totally awesome at pin collecting and even picked up a pig on the way? Only in Lakeside! Our students passionately voiced their opinions during the business session and learned the ins and outs of voting as a church body. It was a great way to kick off a summer of fun for youth ministry here at Brecksville UMC!

Middle School Vacation Bible School: Stick to the Script
July 17-21. For Students entering sixth, seventh or eighth grade this fall.
For five days we will be playing messy games, getting to know each other and exploring different ways we can make a difference. Doing all of this, we will be looking through the lens of the Book of Acts and how Scripture is a “script” for our lives. Each student will receive a service journal and reflect on how doing things for others can change how we feel about ourselves. Here is a general look at our schedule:
- Monday: Brecksville mission. How does our church family help the community?
- Tuesday-Thursday: North East Ohio missions. How can we reach further to those around us?
- Friday: Celebrate mission. How can missional living continue past MVBS?
Register on our website: www.brecksvilleumc.com

Reach Out at Lakeside, OH
July 9-15
We will be heading back to Lakeside for a week of missions, community, and fun! Through helping others, building relationships, and being a vital part of the Reach Out family, campers will grow closer to Christ and learn more about themselves along the way. Dana and Jamie are on staff this year and are excited about what their Reach Out adventure will hold!

Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com
@bumcyouthmin @BrecksvilleumcYouth @bumcyouthmin
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 Donna Sibits and Catherine & Mark Vastaris who made our confirmation reception possible; Erin Gee and Grace Auble, our representatives to the Conference Council on Youth Ministries (CCYM) and all of the work they did for this year's Youth Annual Conference; and Matt & Kathy Auble, who jumped in to chaperone for YAC at the last minute when Jenny lost her mother. We are so thankful for each and every one of you, named and unnamed, and for the many ways that you share your gifts and graces with our church family and with the world!

- Jenny, George, Aleyna, Bridget and Erin Gee

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Open Doors.

Welcoming all of God's children.

Brecksville United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace diversity as a gift. We celebrate our human family’s diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God’s love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.

Worship on the Lawn

Sundays at 8:30 am: June 4 through September 3

This casual, come-as-you-are service includes all the important elements of worship in a beautiful, outdoor setting. Grab a lawn chair or blanket, join us on the front lawn of the church, and feed your spirit on Sunday morning!

*In case of rain, we meet in the Sanctuary. Not on early riser? There’s a second service at 10:00 in the Sanctuary!
Social Media sites give us the opportunity to glorify God, connect with one another, and reach out into our community. Once you start interacting with the church on social media, your friends and followers will start noticing us as well! Our social media presence can be a subtle reminder of the Spirit's movement in your life, in our community and in the world. It’s a subtle form of outreach anyone can do.

If you’re on social media, take a minute to connect with us!

Share a picture or post with #Brecksvilleumc

**Facebook**  
facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC  
When you’re connecting with friends on Facebook, don’t forget Brecksville UMC. Our church page has pictures, information about upcoming events, links to our weekly Sunday Blast, information from the United Methodist Church, videos, and other delights. We have 286 followers—about 100 more than at this time last year. Are you one of them?

**Pinterest**  
pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc  
Are you a pinner? Pinterest is a site where users collect and share images and videos by “pinning” them on boards. Some of our church boards include Books We’re Reading, Potluck Recipes, Devotions, Music, Methodism, Ice Breaker Ideas, Chili Cook Off Inspiration, Yarn Ministry and VBS Decorating ideas. Connect with us and share!

**Instagram**  
instagram.com/brecksvilleumc/  
Instagram is an online mobile photo sharing site. We have 137 followers, 131 more than at this time last year! Connect with Brecksville UMC for photos of mission, worship, and community and share your pics with us!

**You Tube**  
Youtube.com  
Do you like music? Then you’ll want to follow our You Tube channel, Brecksville United Methodist Church. Every week, we post a playlist of songs which will be featured during worship on Sunday. We also share an occasional video on the site.

**Our Church Website**  
brecksvilleumc.com  
Our website is rich with content, and is the place to go for detailed information about upcoming events, our church history, worship times, the church calendar and much more. It even includes a Facebook news feed—so you don’t need a Facebook account to see what’s happening there!
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<td>Attend 10 o’clock Worship on Sunday, July 2</td>
<td>Contribute Detergent (dish or laundry) to the Brookside Bin</td>
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<td>Attend A Worship Service on Sunday, July 9</td>
<td>Sing with the summer choir on July 30</td>
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<td>Twin or Away</td>
<td>Sign up to serve as an usher this summer</td>
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<td>Contribute Detergent (dish or laundry) to</td>
<td>Sing a prayer for our mission team traveling to Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the Brookside Bin</td>
<td>Make and send a birthday card to someone on this month’s birthday list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring paper to the church bins. Recycling</td>
<td>“Like” a church Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here earns money for hunger ministry!</td>
<td>Introduce yourself to someone you don’t know at church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Lunch Bunch on July 11</td>
<td>“FREE SPACE” Complete 5 in a row and return this card to the church office for a sweet treat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend A Worship Service on Sunday, July 16</td>
<td>Give a stranger a compliment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home or away!</td>
<td>Share a photo on social media #BUMC&amp;Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a note to a far away friend and drop</td>
<td>Post a “zero complaints” day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it in the mail.</td>
<td>Introduce yourself to someone you don’t know at church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend A Worship Service on Sunday, July 23</td>
<td>Say a prayer for our mission team traveling to Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home or away!</td>
<td>Make and send a birthday card to someone on this month’s birthday list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give a stranger a compliment.</td>
<td>“FREE SPACE” Complete 5 in a row and return this card to the church office for a sweet treat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend A Worship Service on Sunday, July 30</td>
<td>Write Your Name in this box!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home or away!</td>
<td>Share a photo on social media #BUMC&amp;Me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick up litter in a parking lot, on your</td>
<td>“FREE SPACE” Complete 5 in a row and return this card to the church office for a sweet treat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>street, or at the park.</td>
<td>“FREE SPACE” Complete 5 in a row and return this card to the church office for a sweet treat!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invite a friend to Church!</td>
<td>“FREE SPACE” Complete 5 in a row and return this card to the church office for a sweet treat!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You are invited to

Capture Memories for a lifetime

Be a part of our new family directory program. We need YOU to make our new family directory complete!

We will partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our families and tell our story.

Portraits are treasured keepsakes
More information coming soon about scheduling your portrait session.

Convenient
Lifetouch will photograph at our location.
In your one-hour session you will:
• Be professionally photographed
• Immediately view your portraits
• Have an opportunity to purchase portrait gifts

Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait & directory for participating

Exclusive products for your cherished memories
Dear Members and Friends,

We need YOU to make our 2017 Pictorial Directory complete! To celebrate our church family and strengthen the bond within our congregation, we welcome you to be a part of our upcoming new directory.

A new directory:

- Preserves this time in the life our church
- Becomes a lasting record of our current membership
- Introduces our church to friends, the community and new members
- Enhances fellowship by helping us connect faces with names

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project this year. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary directory and an 8x10 portrait. You can sign up for photography online at our church website at www.brecksvilleumc.com, at church on Sunday mornings in late July/early August, or by calling the church office at 440-526-8938.

**OUR PHOTOGRAPHY DATES**

**Tuesday-Saturday, August 8 - 12, 2017**

For your convenience, all photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with NO sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken. One pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. Lifetouch’s portrait price lists are available in the church office for those who would like them prior to photography.

This professional photography session is a great opportunity to invite your extended family and get portraits with everyone together. In addition, it’s a great reason to invite friends and neighbors to our church. Each visiting family will receive their own complimentary 8x10 portrait!

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. Lifetouch offers so many ways to capture the memories. Your portraits are sure to become valued family keepsakes.

We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory. I am encouraging 100% participation!

Peace,

P.S. Pick up a Portrait Sitting Guide with tips on how to prepare for your portrait session. Price brochures are also available on the table by the church office. We ask that you allow one hour during which time you will check-in, be photographed and select your portraits.