A Series of Small Group Discussions
With Rev. Dave Martin

In October, Brecksville United Methodist Church hosted Dr. Heather Lear, Director of Evangelism Ministries for the United Methodist Church. Dr. Lear guided us in a lively discussion of many things—including an initial discussion of what Outreach and Missions means to Brecksville UMC.

As we start the new year and a new church season, we will continue those discussions. On January 22 and 24, we will be hosting small focus groups lead by Rev. Dave Martin, a retired United Methodist pastor who served most recently with Rocky River UMC.

We welcome everyone to attend! Together, we will look at the future of our church and we need your input. Please choose a session that best fits your schedule. Sign up in the Parlor or by contacting the church office.

Available times include 1:30, 3:00, 6:30 and 8:00 on January 22 and 24.
8:45 Contemporary Worship
10:00 Classes for All Ages
11:15 Traditional Worship
Nursery care available all morning!

Our Staff
Phone: 440-526-8938
Pastor:
Rev. Clark Stein
pastor@brecksvilleumc.com
Associate Pastor, Visitation:
Rev. Barbara Bartholomew
associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com
Dir. of Christian Ed: Jenny Gee
education@brecksvilleumc.com
Director of Music: Adrienne Leska
music@brecksvilleumc.com
Youth Director:
Dana Schwendeman
youth@brecksvilleumc.com
Church Treasurer: Becky Paroda
finance@brecksvilleumc.com
Office Manager: Melanie Smith
office@brecksvilleumc.com
Asst. Office Manager: Leslie Miller
leslie@brecksvilleumc.com
Church School Registrar:
Joan Olszko
Facility Managers:
Jeff and Scott Hastings
facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!

Deep Breath
Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor
“Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don’t get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.”

A comic strip created by Charles Schulz helps us to see the need for each of us to just make the most of the immediate present in our lives:

Charlie Brown is up to bat. Strike three! He has struck out again and slumps down on the player’s bench. He says, “Rats! I'll never be a big league ballplayer. I just don’t have it! All my life I’ve dreamed of playing in the big leagues, but I know I’ll never make it.”

Lucy turns to try and console him. “Charlie Brown,” she says, “you’re thinking too far ahead. What you need to do is set yourself more immediate goals.”

Charlie Brown looks up and asks, “Immediate goals?”

Lucy responds, “Yes. Start with this next inning when you go out to pitch. See if you can walk out to the mound without falling down.”

The first step toward walking into any future is the first step that you take today. Make it a positive, well aimed, light, springy, energetic and purposeful step. The steps that you take today become the well-worn path of tomorrow.

Wishing all of us a healthy and happy 2018!

Pray for peace,

Pastor Clark

Sunday Mornings at 10 am in the Parlor
January hosts:
Finance Committee
Stop in and visit!

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!

Fish Stories
Lunch Bunch
Everyone’s welcome!
Come enjoy breakfast for lunch with the Church Staff
Tuesday, January 9 at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall
Please RSVP!
Sign up on Sunday or contact us: 440-526-8938 or office@brecksvilleumc.com

Published monthly by Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Article deadline 3rd Thursday monthly
Editor, Melanie Smith
office@brecksvilleumc.com
Our faith, lives and ministries take on new life when they are shared. Help us tell God’s story as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news items and story ideas to the church office!
2018 Committee Rosters Announced

Our Nominating Committee has been hard at work assembling committee rosters for the new year. Below is a list of the members of our Church Council, which consists of all committee chairs, six at large members, all members of the church program staff, and a recording secretary. We are thankful for all of those who devote their time and talents to the work of this church.

Church Council
- Chair, Kristi Eberhardt
- Senior Pastor, Rev. Clark Stein
- Lay Member to Annual Conference, George Gee
- Annual Conference Member at Large, Jenny Gee
- President of the United Methodist Women, Ruth Herman,
- Church Historian, Marianne Nolan
- Church Treasurer, Becky Paroda
- 2018 Members at Large, John Brachna and Marianne Nolan
- 2019 Members at Large, Tim Miller and Helen Lee
- 2020 Members at Large, to be named
- Secretary, to be named

Committee Chairs
- Church and Society, vacant
- Education, Jenny Gee
- Fellowship Committee, vacant
- Finance, Craig Kotnik
- Gifts & Memorials, Dave Brown
- Missions and Outreach, Co-chairs Lynn Spencer and Janet Kleckner
- Music & Worship Board, Co-chairs Liz Fredrick and Claire Hayes
- Staff Parish Relations, Ric Lesinski
- Trustees, Bob Lundholm
- Youth Board, Dana Schwendeman

If you would like a complete list of the membership of all committees, please contact the church office or attend the February Church Council meeting. Interested in serving? Please contact Pastor Clark!

Bless the Congregation with Flowers!

Share a special occasion with the congregation—order Altar Flowers! Order by January 31 for 2017 pricing of $40 for a standard arrangement. The price goes up to $45 February 1. Special arrangements are available at additional cost. Flowers are provided by florist Vince DiCillo. Take your arrangement home to enjoy after second service! Reserve your special date. Contact Leslie to order: 440-526-8938
Veterans Christmas Card Thank You

You made Christmas brighter with all your beautiful sentiments and words in the Christmas cards you wrote to our veterans at Louis B. Stokes Medical Center. Together, we achieved our goal of having a Christmas card for every Veteran! I stopped counting at 550 and there were more to count! The volunteer services workers at the hospital were so very grateful and moved that our Veterans would each get a Christmas card from you. They said that we must be a very special group of people at Brecksville United Methodist, and I told them you definitely are!

Thank you to each person who signed a card (or several cards) and also a BIG thank you to Jeanette Dumot and Kathy Auble, whose classrooms each made Christmas cards for the Veterans. They were so heartfelt and so cutely written. One of the veterans sent the church a Christmas card. She wrote, in part, “I received a Christmas Card and it meant a lot to me...It touched my heart that you would think of us at this time of year. Merry Christmas!”

- Donna Sibits, The Fellowship Committee

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough

Put your used tissue in the waste basket.

Clean your Hands

Wash hands with soap and warm water.

or

clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.

A new all church study for adults. We are people who love to hear a good story. How are you at telling a story? Can you tell the story of your faith? Of your encounters with God in your day to day living? Who are the key players in your faith development story? Does any of it matter all that much?

Join us for this engaging, interactive time of looking introspectively our own faith journey. Drop in anytime! We will work as a large class and in small groups. Teachers include Kathy Dickriede, Jamie Schwendeman, Chuck and Becky Gezze, Alan Schuefler and Kendall Lancaster.

Class will run from January 14 through February 11

Cookies for the USO // Wed. Jan. 3 at 6:30 pm

Join the ladies of the UMW Evening Circle in the church kitchen to bake and package cookies for the USO Canteen at the CLE Airport. Bring unbaked cookie dough for 2 dozen cookies. All are welcome!

Thank you! Here’s a huge thank you to all who fulfilled a "Wish List" Christmas Gift for a girl in the sisterhood at the Westside Community Center. Look for photos of their Christmas Party on the UMW bulletin board this winter!
**All Youth Dinner** // January 7, 5—7 pm // Fellowship Hall

Let’s kick off 2018! This month’s dinner is being sponsored by the Kotnik Family. Join us for a fun night full of yummy food and a large group game. Students in grades six through twelve are invited -- and encouraged to bring friends! We hope to see you there!

**Flat Rock Homes Overnight** // January 12 through 13

Confirmation students and high school students will take a trip to Flat Rock, OH (near Sandusky) for a fun overnight experience that combines helping others and making awesome memories with friends, old and new!

Flat Rock Homes is a very special place. Here, people with developmental disabilities and those who are differently-abled are cared for by a wonderful staff, learn important skills, and enjoy an important sense of community with one another. Flat Rock Homes is passionate about supporting each and every human being in their journey toward wholeness and fulfillment.

We are excited to once again visit these remarkable individuals, help with their Christian Education, and lend a helping hand to the facility manager. After our daily activities we will have a lock-in at the facility with a movie, snacks, and access to a full gym! We hope you will join us.

- RSVP is REQUIRED for attendance.
- Email Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com before January 8th to hold your place for this amazing opportunity!

**Youth Service Project Meeting** // January 21 at Noon // Room 301

Interested in going on YSP with us this summer? Our trip is scheduled for June 17—21. Come to this first informative meeting and we will kick-off an exciting 2018 season! We hope to see you there. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Let’s Talk About It: The Addiction Epidemic** // Jan 28 at 7 pm

We are excited to start a new discussion series titled “Let’s Talk About It.” Come to the youth room on the fourth Sunday of every month at 7 pm for open, honest, and informed discussion on topics that impact students and the people they love. These discussions will be led by guest speakers. While they are youth focused, all are invited to join us! Our first Let’s Talk About It topic will be *The Addiction Epidemic* and will be led by Brenda Calovini. We would love to know how many people to expect so please email Dana with your RSVP and with any questions you may have.

**Volunteer Appreciation Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, January 7
10 am in Fellowship Hall

Let’s celebrate the people who serve our church and our community—with pancakes!

ALL are welcome.
Hope you’ll join us!

---

Stay Connected! Contact Dana Schwendeman 440-526-8938 ext. 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com
As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings over the last four weeks, the following people were lifted in prayer with thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like our wonderful United Methodist Women, who fulfill an important ministry of caring. They recently hosted a funeral reception for a local family who had suffered a tragic loss, and helped surround a grieving family with love. Did you see the beautiful wreaths on our doors this Christmas season? They were placed there by Jane Petrie, who has continued this tradition for many years. Thank you, Jane! In Pastor Clark’s absence, certified lay speaker, John Brachna, delivered a wonderful sermon on Thanksgiving weekend. Thank you for stepping in and allowing Pastor Clark and Kathy to spend the holiday with their children, John. We have searched high and low for fair trade decaffeinated coffee. When you have a professional barista on the case, that job’s not so hard! Thank you, Jamie Schwendeman, for helping fill this need for coffee hour. Mitchell Bell did such a wonderful job with the liturgy for Advent and Christmas Eve. We’re so thankful for each of you who are part of each worship service! And did you see the video that Jenny, Dana and our Sunday School kids put together to tell the Christmas story? It’s wonderful! (You can see it on our Facebook page.) We thank God for all of you!

May the light of Jesus guide us on our paths as we share his love with the world. Amen!
## January Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1  Offices Closed</td>
<td>2  10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>3  6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>4  6:30 Bells</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Happy New Year!</em></td>
<td>5 Middle School Youth Group</td>
<td>6 30 (pm) Evening Circle</td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 Libera Sunday</td>
<td>8 6 Cardio Kickboxing and</td>
<td>10 6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>6 30 Bells</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epiphany</td>
<td>Strength Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>9 10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>10 6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>8 30 Men’s Ens.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appreciation Sunday</td>
<td>12 Lunch Bunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:45 Worship</td>
<td>5 Middle School Youth Group</td>
<td>11 Human Trafficking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Pancakes!</td>
<td>7 Church Council</td>
<td>Awareness Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:15 Worship</td>
<td>10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:15 Music Bd</td>
<td>12 Lunch Bunch</td>
<td>6:30 Bells</td>
<td>12 Youth Overnight at Flat Rock Home</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 All Youth Dinner</td>
<td>6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 Men’s Ensemble</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Communion</td>
<td>16 10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>17 6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>18 6:30 Bells</td>
<td>19 UMW Food Delivery to Brookside</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Relations Day</td>
<td>10 Stitch’n’Tme</td>
<td></td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Knitting Group</td>
<td>8:30 Men’s Ensemble</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Middle School Youth Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 Offices Closed</td>
<td>21 Small Group</td>
<td>22 6 Cardio</td>
<td>25 6:30 Bells</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Office Closed</em></td>
<td>Meetings with Rev. Dave Martin</td>
<td>Kickboxing and</td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23 10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>Strength Class</td>
<td>8:30 Men’s Ensemble</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Finance</td>
<td>24 Small Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Middle School Youth Group</td>
<td>Meetings with Rev.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29 6 Cardio</td>
<td>Dave Martin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kickboxing and</td>
<td>6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Strength Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 10 Staff Meeting</td>
<td>31 6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5 Middle School Youth Group</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28 8:45 Worship</td>
<td>29 6 Cardio</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 Classes for All Ages</td>
<td>Kickboxing and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28:15 Worship</td>
<td>Strength Class</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 Let’s Talk About It: Addiction</td>
<td>Epidemic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Paper Recycling Bonus Week!**

**Ecumenical Sunday**
- 8:45 Worship
- 10 Classes for All Ages
- 11:15 Worship
- 7 HS Youth Grp

**Small Group Meetings with Rev. Dave Martin**
- 6 Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Class
- 10 Staff Meeting 5 Middle School Youth Group
- 6:30 Breakfast

**Small Group Meetings with Rev. Dave Martin**
- 6:30 Breakfast

**Let’s Talk About It: Addiction Epidemic**
- 6 Cardio Kickboxing and Strength Class
- 10 Staff Meeting 5 Middle School Youth Group
- 6:30 Breakfast

**Kristi Eberhardt and Mary Kotnik**
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.