Our 2019 Church Family Photo was taken Sunday, September 8. We had 198 people in worship that day—are you one of the people who took part in the photo? It’s the header of our Facebook profile right now. Are you a Facebook user? Stop by and tag yourself in the photo and share it with your friends!

GRATITUDE: IT’S A HABIT
Our October Sermon series focuses on Gratitude. What happens when we are intentional with prayers of thanks? Read about it inside...

LEARNING & SERVING
Read the latest from our ministries: Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Missions, The United Methodist Women, and more...

OCTOBER EVENTS
Lay speaker training, World Communion Sunday, Men’s Retreat, Lunch Bunch, Halloween in the Heights, Blood Drive, Open Table Worship, and more...
Sunday Mornings are Special Here!
8:45 Worship with Live Band
11:15 Worship w/ Traditional Hymns
10:00 Classes for All Ages

Our Staff
Phone: 440-526-8938
Pastor:
Rev. Heidi Welch ext. 224 pastor@brecksvilleumc.com
Associate Pastor, Visitation:
Rev. Barbara Bartholomew associatepastori@brecksvilleumc.com
Christian Ed: Jenny Gee ext. 230 education@brecksvilleumc.com
Youth Director:
Dana Schwendeman ext. 237 youth@brecksvilleumc.com
Music Director:
Malik Khalfani ext. 231 music@brecksvilleumc.com
Praise Band: Jamie Schwendeman Jamie@brecksvilleumc.com
Finance: Becky Paroda ext. 225 finance@brecksvilleumc.com
Office Manager: Melanie Smith office@brecksvilleumc.com
Asst. Office Manager: Leslie Miller leslie@brecksvilleumc.com
Church School Registrar:
Joan Olszko bumc999@ameritech.net
Facility Managers:
Jeff and Scott Hastings ext. 233 facilities@brecksvilleumc.com
Organist:
Sean Brown sean@brecksvilleumc.com

Between services this past Sunday, Corrie (my 5-year-old) came up to me and exclaimed, “I have a loose tooth!” Choking back tears, I said, “Wow!” and she showed me how one of her tiny, adorable baby teeth now rocks back and forth. Her first loose tooth. She was excited, but as Mom all I could think was, “My baby isn’t a baby anymore.”

Corrie rides a school bus to kindergarten every day. When she sees the bus coming down the road, she quickly gives me a hug, turns away, climbs up the stairs, sits down next to her best friend, and with a big smile, waves goodbye. We’re a month into school I and still get a lump in my throat. She’s not a baby anymore.

Rus and I have entered a new season of life. Gone are the nights spent rocking them to sleep, afternoon naps, and kissing every boo boo. Both kids are in school, they’re making their own friends, and creating their own lives without us always by their side. It’s sad, exciting, and scary all at the same time.

I can’t help but recognize that as a church we’re entering a new season also. Sometimes with change we assume it means what used to be is “bad” and what is to come is “good.” But that’s not always the case. At BUMC, we’re not changing because who we were was “bad,” but because we’re open to the movement of the Holy Spirit and being attentive to the Spirit’s leading. We’re growing and living into what God is calling us to next.

Several times now, when Corrie gets off the school bus in the afternoon, she has a “Caught being Kind” sticker on her shirt. And I notice her taking turns with her new friends, and when they fall, she checks to see if they’re OK. I’m so very proud of the little human she’s turning into, and I’m excited to see how she will continue to learn and grow… even if there’s still a lump in my throat.

I imagine God looking at us in the same way—proud of us as a gathered community of God’s beloved children, figuring out how to authentically love others and live transformed by the Gospel message every day. And I’m proud of us, too!
For God so loved the world that God gave God’s one and only Son, that whoever believes in God shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

This is one of the most oft-quoted scriptures and gives us a glimpse into the nature of God: God loves us, so God gave God’s Son so that we would know of God’s love and be united to God forever. God loves us and is generous.

Scripture after scripture reminds us that we worship an extravagantly generous God—the giver of every good gift, and the source of life and love. And because we were born with the characteristics of God, it follows that we were born to be loving and generous, too.

Most of us want to be generous, we just don’t know how. So this year’s stewardship will be focused on Waking Up to Gratitude. We will focus on what is keeping us from being generous—recognizing how much we have and how using that abundance for the glory of God can transform us and others. Living a life of gratitude can help us participate in healing this broken world, showing those outside our walls how much God loves them and desires a relationship with them.

Brecksville United Methodist Church is currently in the midst of discerning where God is leading us in the future. We know that we are here in this specific time and place for a reason—God has given us a unique purpose and has something amazing planned for us! Because we live in this world, doing the “incredible things we haven’t even imagined yet” costs money. On October 27, we will all have an opportunity to make our annual financial pledge commitments for 2020. These pledges are an opportunity to declare, “Yes! I want to participate in what God is doing in and through Brecksville United Methodist Church!” and help us to fund all that God will do through Brecksville UMC in the coming year.

We encourage you to continue to confidently pray our 6:50 prayer:

So often, God, I limit you with my doubts and insecurities. I don’t trust in you, but focus on what I want. I’m sorry, Lord. Breakthrough into my life and into your church. Help me see where your Spirit is leading. Push me beyond my comfort zones. Your power and love surpasses all understanding. Assure me that through them, the possibilities are endless. Give me faith and courage to follow you to the incredible things we haven’t even imagined yet. Amen.

- Faithfully, The Finance Committee
**“All Church” Advent Study**


Learn the stories behind the story of Jesus’ birth. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to dive deeper into the stories of the census, the star and the stable to bring a new light and understanding into your celebration of Christmas this year.

An introduction to the study will take place on Nov. 17 and the 4 week study begins Dec. 1.

Small groups will begin forming soon. Do you want to host one here at church or in your home? On a week day, week night, or weekend? Invite your closest faith friends or open it up to meet new people? With fellow night owls or early birds?

All materials will be provided including a DVD and leader guide. Each participant can sign up to purchase the book ($13) and group leaders will get theirs for free.

*Interested?* Call the office or ask Pastor Heidi or Jenny Gee for more information.

*Contact information on page two of this newsletter!*

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**Third Grade Bible Sunday**

Pictured Left to Right: Emma Santora, Miles Paroda, Megan Gardner, Ella Davis, Brooke Barnum, Lily Jatsek, Kaya Roberts, Addy Pribble, Tate Fowler. Not pictured, Bryn Bisco

In the baptismal covenant, we are asked “Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these people now before you in your care?” We respond, “With God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.”

One way we honor this commitment is with the tradition of presenting Bibles to our third grade students. It’s a rite of passage, a gift of love and nurture from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for each of our third graders to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus through the study of God’s word.

We presented ten Bibles this year! *About the Bible:* The Deep Blue Kids’ Bible uses the Common English Bible (CEB) translation. This Bible has notes within the text, broken down by subject: notes about positive traits that help us grow stronger, notes of encouragement, notes on the basics of Christianity and notes explaining some of the harder questions and hard-to-understand concepts of the Bible. There are sections with Bible trivia, mini devotions, memory verses, reading challenges, and beautiful maps by National Geographic.

When the Paroda family got home Sunday, Becky wanted to show her son, Miles, the Bible she received here as a third grader. Looking at the inscription, they realized that she received hers on the same date, September 22, all those years ago. Becky said, “It was a very special day for our family!”

**Calling all Angels, Shepherds and People of Wisdom**

A wonderful tradition of our Family Christmas Eve worship service (5 pm on December 24) is the retelling of Christ’s birth story with real live people playing the parts. Would you, your family or your child like to be part of the experience this year? Please call Jenny Gee at 440.526.8938 ext. 230 or email education@brecksvilleumc.com.
**Men’s Retreat at Camp Asbury October 11 & 12**

Strongsville United Methodist Church invites Men from all walks of life to come together in Christian community to learn, share, grow, have fun and get to know one another.

Take time to recharge, learn and rest! Camp Asbury is an East Ohio UMC Camp located in Hiram, Ohio. The retreat begins at 4 pm Friday and goes through 5 pm on Saturday.

Rev. Scott Blevins from Garfield Memorial UMC is the guest speaker. Cost is $100 and includes meals and lodging.

Register today! Contact David Snyder dsnyder62@gmail.com or Becky Zatezalo, bzatezalo@gmail.com. Phone 440 - 476-8248

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**No Tricks. Just Treats!**

As Halloween approaches, we have several opportunities to reach out, have fun and be of service to others. Want to be part of it? Read on...

**Halloween On The Heights October 19, 5—8 pm**

The City of Broadview Heights hosts this fun filled family event for residents featuring indoor trick-or-treating, costume competitions, carnival games, inflatables, food and more! Our Mission & Outreach Committee is hosting a table and handing out treats. Stop by and say hello, or lend a hand! Contact the church office if you’d like to help.

**The Nehemiah Mission Pumpkin Patch**

*October: Mon -Sat 12-8 pm and Sundays 12-5*

Help is needed selling 800 pumpkins in the missions annual pumpkin patch on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland. Sound like fun? Call 216-961-6968 x10 or e-mail nehmission@gmail.com

**Horizon’s Preschool Costume Parade**

*Thursday, October 31*

Our church is home to a pre-school serving 3 and 4 year olds, and it’s become a tradition for the kids to “trick or treat” our halls in costume. Want to be part of the fun? Bring some treats to the church for the morning or afternoon parades. Call for details!

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**Confirmation has started!**

We are so excited about our new confirmation year starting back up. Our students will have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of “what it means to be a United Methodist” throughout the year. During their Sunday School hour, they explore questions and aspects of faith that dig a little deeper into what they believe. They also received a brand new bible that is specifically geared toward students going through confirmation. At the start of our year, they are paired with an adult mentor and meet with them regularly to continue those important faith conversations. They are encouraged to participate in worship, service projects, and other community events. Now this year, the student will be visiting two different denominational worship services to explore what makes being a United Methodist different. In February we will be joining other northeast Ohio confirmands for a retreat at Camp Wanake where students learn all about church history, polity, and structure. It’s a full year of new, exciting experiences and we can’t wait to see what God has in store. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they are challenged, encouraged to grow, and explore their faith on a whole new level.

**2020 Confirmands:**

Joe Botzman
Eliza Botzman
Ryan Shijo
Andrew Kubek
Zach Brachna
Juliana Tait

**Teachers:**

George Gee
Mike Kubek
Janine Telischak
Gail Huth
Hello, October!

**All Youth Dinner** October 6 from 5—7 pm

Are you ready for another fun night with friends and good food? The Kubeks have graciously offered to host us at their home for our October dinner. Come and enjoy a fun fall night around a bonfire. Middle and high school students are welcome to attend this event. Bringing friends is encouraged! Will you be there? Let Dana know at youth@brecksvilleumc.com.

**Halloween on the Heights** October 19 from 5—8 pm

We are teaming up with Mission and Outreach for this awesome event. We are in need of some volunteers. Do you love dressing up, helping little kids play games, and passing out candy? Then this volunteer opportunity is for you! Sign up to help by emailing Dana before October 10.

**Cedar Point Trip** October 26 from 9 am—9 pm

Students in 9-12 grade are invited to join us on an awesome trip to Sandusky, OH for spooky thrills, exciting coasters, and a day full of fun. RSVP to join us via youth@brecksvilleumc.com by October 15. Friends are welcome!

**Youth Group Meets at the Church on Sunday Nights!**

Join us on the 4th Floor from 6—8 pm. Bring your friends!

**Energize Worship & Epic After Party**

November 2—For students in sixth through twelfth grade

We are heading to Newcomerstown, OH for our annual Energize Youth event! There will be a full worship band and service, then have a fun after party. Last year, we had laser tag, build-your-own fry bar and ice cream bar. Plus, there will be other surprises throughout the night. Don’t miss out on this FREE fun!
**The End of an Era.** Ruth Herman, who has served as UMW President since 2009, has announced that this will be her last term. Under her leadership, the Brecksville UMW has raised over $90,000 for organizations helping women and children locally and around the world. She has organized funeral receptions and chili cook offs and has helped produce countless pies and cobblers for Home Days. United Methodist Women depends on laywomen like Ruth who use their God-given gifts to engage in God’s mission in the world. The UMW is committed to developing strong leaders through education and training that equip women with leadership skills. Ruth will continue to serve through December 31, as the group looks for a new leader. Could it be you?

**The UMW Evening Circle Meets October 2 at 6:30.** Come help prepare gift bags for our Confirmands and enjoy a time of community together.

**UMW Meeting Thursday, October 3.** Learn about the work of The Greater Cleveland FoodBank with a presentation by Kim Lavano. The morning starts with a Continental breakfast and fellowship at 9:30 followed by the program at 10. Everyone is invited. See you there?

**Brookside Donations.** This month, our collection focuses on paper towels, napkins and tissues—essential items which cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Collection ends on October 17.

**Do you shop at ACME?** Save your receipts! The UMW will earn money for their mission fund with every receipt collected. Bring yours, dated August through December, to the bin in the coat room.

Help support the ministry of the Evening Circle by supporting their bake sale on October 6. Proceeds from the sale will buy Bibles for the residents of Rahab House. If you have questions or would like to become involved with the good work done by the women of the Evening Circle, call Lynn Hobzek at 440-526-6037 or email kezboh@aol.com.

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**Dear Rev. Welch,**

I want thank the Brecksville United Methodist Church for all the ways it contributes to our community and shares its gifts. Although I am not a member of your church, your generosity has touched my life. As a child growing up in Brecksville, I was part of a Girl Scout troop sponsored by the parish and remember preparing many pancake breakfasts in your Fellowship Hall. In high school, I was an active member of Key Club. Every summer we assisted with the Kiwanis Horse Show, and we were always welcomed to refill coolers of ice for beverages from your ice maker. More recently, I have joined the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Community Chorus. I am so grateful for the Chorus and it is a gift to be able to rehearse at your church. And then this summer, my children, now growing up in the community as well, took part in the Brecksville Theatre's summer camp. They enjoyed themselves more than I ever imagined they would and came home sharing how they had their classes "in that place they get cookies after mommy's choir concerts" also known as your Fellowship Hall. I was touched to know that their experience was possible in part because of your willingness to open your space to others.

I know these are small and very local examples of all the good you do as a faith community, but I wanted to take a moment to thank the Brecksville United Methodist Church for sharing your resources generously and supporting our shared community. My life is better for it.

*In gratitude, Angela Maher*
E-mail or phone Melanie with news to share!
office@brecksvilleumc.com
440-526-8938

On Monday, September 30 we celebrate the wonderful life of Trevor “Bob” Johns. A member of this church family since 1984, Mr. Johns lived a life of service to his church, his country and his community. Please join us at 11 am in the Sanctuary. Rev. Heidi Welch will officiate the service.

Congratulations go out to Helen Lee and the Brecksville Bees for their performance at the Suburban Conference National Division Girls’ Tennis Championships. Helen is the Champion at #3 Singles.

As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly staff meetings recently, prayers of thanks were lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Paul Calovini, who moved from behind the sound board and into the praise band for our summer worship services. Thank you for sharing your gifts, Paul! Kathy Sopka serves in so many ways, including as a regular usher and a member of the United Methodist Women. Thank you, Kathy! Speaking of United Methodist Women, Ruth Herman has served as president for ten years. Thank you, Ruth, for a decade of leadership. The Fall Kick Off/Homecoming Celebration would not be possible without the help of a lot of folks, including Donna Sibits and the Fellowship Committee. Thank you to all who helped set up, clean up, and cook for the event. It was so much fun to all be together! Even if your name is not on this list, know that we are thankful for you and all of the ways that you serve in love!
## October 2019

**Brecksville United Methodist Church**

### Sun

- **6 World Communion Sunday**
- **Bakin’ for Bibles**
- **8:45 Worship**
- **10 Classes**
- **11:15 Worship**
- **4:30 Open Table Worship**
- **5 Youth Dinner**

### Mon

- **7 Monday is the Pastor’s Sabbath**
- **10 Staff Meeting**
- **12 Lunch Bunch**
- **7 Music & Worship Board**

### Tue

- **1 10 Staff Meeting**
- **2 6:30 Brkfst**
- **9:30 UMW Board Mtg**
- **6:30 Evening Circle**
- **7 Mid-Week Bible Study**

### Wed

- **3 9:30 UMW 7:30 Choir**
- **5 Bread: Hastings**
- **8 - 4 Lay Leader Training Here**

### Thu

- **4 9:30 Church Woman’s Day at Mt. Zion**
- **9:30 Mom’s Club**
- **6 Lay Leader Training**

### Fri

- **10 9:30 Asbury Bremeth Circle**
- **7:30 Choir**
- **11 No School NEOEA Day**
- **Men’s Retreat at Camp Asbury**
- **5 Wedding Rehearsal**

### Sat

- **12 Bread: Brachna**
- **2 Fraser/Barno Wedding**

### Sun

- **13 Gratitude Series Begins**
- **8:45 Worship**
- **10 Classes**
- **11:15 Worship with Baptism**
- **12:15 Confirmation/Mentor Mtg**

### Mon

- **14 6 Reconciling Task Force Meets Here**
- **10 Staff Meeting**
- **12 Lunch Bunch**
- **7 Music & Worship Board**

### Tue

- **15 10 Staff Meeting**
- **7 Missions & Outreach**
- **7:30 Trustees**

### Wed

- **16 6:30 Brkfst**
- **1 Clergy Consultation**
- **6 SPRC/DS Consultation**
- **7 Mid-Week Bible Study**

### Thu

- **17 7:30 Choir Charge Conference forms due today!**
- **5 Wedding Rehearsal**
- **Donations Delivered to Brookside Today**

### Fri

- **18 7:30 Choir**
- **5 Wedding Rehearsal**
- **Donations Delivered to Brookside Today**

### Sat

- **19 5 Halloween on the Heights**
- **Bread: Miller 4:30 Wagner/Kinaitis Wedding**
- **5 Halloween on the Heights**

### Sun

- **20 8:45 Worship**
- **10 Classes**
- **11:15 Worship**
- **6 Youth Group**

### Mon

- **21 10 Staff Meeting**
- **6 Welcome Committee**
- **7 Finance**

### Tue

- **22 10 Staff Meeting**
- **6 Welcome Committee**
- **7 Finance**

### Wed

- **23 6:30 Brkfst**
- **7 Mid-Week Bible Study**

### Thu

- **24 7:30 Choir**
- **5 Halloween on the Heights**
- **Bread: Santora National Drug Take Back Day. Cedar Point Trip!**

### Fri

- **25 No School**
- **Fall Retreat to the Abbey of Genese**

### Sat

- **26 Closer Schedule**
- **Week of 10/1—Holmes 10/6—Gezze 10/13—Lundholm 10/20—Hudacek 10/27—Brown**

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*For details and more information, visit [www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)*
Brecksville UMC
65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio 44141
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Electronic Service Requested

Socialize with us!

vitalant

Blood Drive
October 27

Save a life. Give blood!
From surgery to fighting cancer
to giving birth, blood donations are used to save
around 12,000 lives a day. Vitalant (formerly LifeShare)
is a non-profit blood bank dedicated to maintaining an
adequate blood supply for Northeast Ohio hospi-
tals. Blood collected at Vitalant blood drives stays
within the area. If we can get at least 12 people to reg-
ister, they will be bringing their blood mobile to
Brecksville—specifically to our church – on Sunday,
October 27. Tell your friends!
Register by clicking the image on the homepage of our
website or by calling the office.

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 ori-
tentation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith histo-
ry, economic status, marital status, physical and mental
ability, and education. We affirm that all people are creat-
ed 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 to-
ward reconciliation through Christ.
East Ohio Conference

BAHAMAS HURRICANE DORIAN MISSION COLLECTION

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) will be collecting items for hurricane relief at the following locations within The East Ohio Conference:

CAMBRIDGE | FRIDAY OCT. 25 | AFTERNOON
120 Old National Rd, Washington, OH 43768
Contact: Pastor Clayton Coffey, MMDC Board Member 618.267.5226

NAVARRE | SATURDAY OCT 26 | MORNING
Otterbein UMC | 6025 Shepler Church Rd SW, Navarre OH 44662
Drop-off at church Mon-Thu 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Contact: Doris Brown, church office admin 330.704.2055

MEDINA | SATURDAY OCT. 26 | MORNING
Granger UMC | 1235 Granger Rd, Medina, OH 44265
Drop-off at church Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Contact: Bob Hummel, MMDC Ambassador 330.239.2380

GARFIELD HEIGHTS | SATURDAY OCT. 26 | MORNING
Garfield Heights UMC | 4977 Turney Rd, Cleveland, OH 44125
Drop-off at church Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Contact: Sandy Bittner, MMDC Board Member 216.524.5816

SANDUSKY | SATURDAY OCT. 26 | AFTERNOON
Trinity UMC | 214 Jefferson, Sandusky, OH 44870 (Lot on Hancock St.)
Drop-off at church Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Contact: Tammy Kuntz, NCJ Volunteers in Mission Coordinator 614.325.8741

TOP ITEMS REQUESTED LISTED ON BACK
HOME RECOVERY

- Tarps - any size can be gently used
- Blankets - can be gently used
- Shovels - prefer flat long handle
- Flashlights - with working batteries

Personal Dignity Kit “PDK” (514 Value)

- Bath hand towel - No kitchen towels
- Bath washcloth - No kitchen dishtowels
- Comb - no rattail, pocket size or picks
- Nail/Toenail clippers (no nail files or emery boards)
- Adult Toothbrush
- Shampoo - 3-4 oz
- Deodorant - 2-3 oz (stick or roll on)
- Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- Razor with guard
- Toothpaste - 2.5 oz. or larger

HEALTH RECOVERY

- Foldable Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Crutches
- Canes
- Orthopedic Supplies - walking boots, slings, ace wrap, etc.

All Midwest Mission and UMCOR kits can be brought to collection points for pick-up. Items listed here are just the greatest need currently.

Please bring supplies to drop-off points in boxes. For more specifics, contact the church or person listed on the front.

BUY THESE SUPPLIES AT WHOLESALE PRICES!

https://www.dollardays.com/midwestmission/wishlist.html

More Kit Information - http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects/kits-projects

Monetary donations can be made payable to:

EAST OHIO CONFERENCE UMC, FUND 9944 in the memo
PO Box 2800, Cleveland Ave NW, North Canton, OH 44720

or donate online at https://www.eocumc.com/donate/index.html