COMMUNION: The Meal That Makes Us One

“Growing up in the Methodist tradition, I can’t remember a time where I did not take Communion. I loved the rhythm of it; we all came together to the table and were treated equally. After I went gluten-free, Communion became a stressful occurrence that I often dreaded. In fact, I went almost a year and a half without receiving.”
- From The IRD Blog

Brecksville United Methodist Church is committed to inclusion.

In the United Methodist tradition, communion is open to anyone who seeks to respond to Christ's love and to lead a new life of peace and love.

But for people with sensitivity to gluten, an ingredient in traditional communion bread, there was a barrier. That changed last month, when we switched from having separate gluten free communion wafers to using 100% gluten free bread for all on Communion Sunday.

“I have never felt more loved or cared for by this church family than this morning” said one member of our congregation when we made the switch.

In going Gluten Free, we consulted with other churches, bakeries, and people living a gluten-free life. We are currently using a gluten free bread from a company called Udi’s. Did you notice a difference? We welcome suggestions and resources!

Some things to know about Communion at Brecksville United Methodist Church

- We celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month.
- Children are most welcome! While they may not understand the deep theological meanings, they can feel the blessing of being a part of God’s family who love one another and are deeply loved by Jesus Christ.
- We observe Communion by intinction: the congregation leaves their pews and come forward, receiving a piece of bread and dipping it in a chalice of juice.
- Using juice allows those with sensitivity to alcohol to participate.
- Communion is served by a communion steward, who places a piece of bread into your hand. This helps minimize the spread of germs.

All of this is God’s gift to us.

Some things to think about...

- When you receive the bread and cup, the body and blood of Christ, what’s happening in your heart?
- What is it about celebrating Holy Communion with these particular people of your congregation that makes a difference in your life?
- How does celebrating Holy Communion help you follow Jesus wherever you go and whatever you do?
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
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Each year as part of the Charge Conference paperwork, the pastor is asked to give a report. I thought it fitting to share my report with you this month: As I write this, I’ve been at Brecksville United Methodist Church for three and a half months. In many respects that’s hard to believe. This congregation has been welcoming and receptive to me and my family, and so much has happened in such a little time.

I spent most of my first month and a half doing Home Gatherings. These helped me to get to know individuals, as well as peoples’ hopes and desires for Brecksville UMC. I learned this church family is responsive to new ideas, is willing to make space for new individuals, and is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. (I learned a lot of church history and church family dynamics, too!)

In August we began praying together the 6:50 prayer, asking God to open us to the possibilities we haven’t even imagined yet. And after 6-weeks of praying each day, we met to discuss where we heard God’s prompting.

In September we met for the first time to intentionally begin a visioning process, building on things learned through the Home Gatherings (that connect well with Dr. Martin’s work from last year), the 6:50 prayer discussion, and staff brainstorming.

In worship, we’ve started with the essentials of who we are called to be as disciples. We don’t have to be perfect (thank you for the example, Simon Peter) but we are challenged to worship, learn together, serve others, and give financially. These basics can be summarized as Worship + 2 and a Tithe, and set the foundation for what we are called to do as a church.

October brought a focus on gratitude, with our stewardship worship series “Waking up to Gratitude,” and Gratitude Journals. I’ve challenged everyone to take some time each day to write three things they’re thankful for—they can be big or small, a story, a picture, or a word. Gratitude is a lens or posture, and focusing on gratitude helps you to see the abundance with which God has entrusted you.

Finally, I’ve gathered together a Reconciling Task Force, to help me discern the best ways of communicating with the congregation information regarding General Conference 2020 and all that entails. We will have congregational gatherings to learn about the plans being put forth regarding the future of The United Methodist Church, and what options are available. This Task Force will also be working on “bold but not foolish” ways we can proclaim our belief that all are welcome and are worthy of space in the body of Christ.

Looking to the future, we will continue to discern God’s vision for our church—connecting our unique gifts to the unique needs of our community. We will discern what it means to be inclusive rather than welcoming or accommodating. And we will seek God’s guidance every step of the way. The vision God gives us will guide us as we navigate the unknowns of the future of the UMC.

I am excited to be the Senior Pastor at Brecksville United Methodist Church, and look forward to learning and serving alongside this wonderful group of God’s beloved!

- Respectfully submitted, Rev. Heidi M. Welch
Natural disasters often strike without warning, leaving many of our brothers and sisters around the world facing an uncertain future with no home, no shelter, no clean water, no food, no clean clothing. Through UMCOR, the United Methodist Church is often among the first to provide assistance wherever and whenever it is needed. This year, our Thanksgiving offering will be sent to UMCOR for emergency/natural disaster relief. The administrative costs for this branch of our church are covered from a separate source, so 100% of our giving will be used to help those whose lives have been turned upside down. Let’s be thankful our own homes are still right-side-up.

Join your church family and friends in small groups this Advent to study and learn together about the stories behind the story of Jesus’ birth. We will have our organizational meeting on November 17 during the 10:00 Sunday school hour. Small groups will begin to meet the week of November 24. 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.

**Group leaders are needed.** Host a group here at church or in your home. Invite your closest faith friends or open it up to meet new people. Busy on Sundays? So are other people! Let’s organize some groups to meet during the week. All materials will be provided including a DVD and leader guide. Each participant can sign up to purchase the book ($13). Group leaders will get theirs for free. Interested? Call the office or ask Pastor Heidi or Jenny Gee for more information: 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

**All Church Advent Study**

Yep—that means all of us!!


**In September Pastor Heidi preached about “Why” we learn together... this is an opportunity to rise to the challenge.**

Angels and Shepherds and Wisefolk... oh my!

We have searched and found the Holy Family but we still need some angels to announce the Good News, shepherds to hear it, Maji to celebrate it and sheep to ‘baa’ and look adorable. Are you interested in being part of our awesome live nativity at the 5:00 Family Christmas Eve worship? All ages are welcome and costumes are provided. We will have one rehearsal the week before Christmas. Let Jenny know either by calling 440-526-8938 or emailing her at education@brecksvilleumc.com.
Worshippers Targeted by Gift Card Scam
by Colleen Tressler, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

We’re seeing a new spin on gift card scams. This time, scammers are pretending to be a pastor, rabbi, priest, imam, or bishop. They’re asking worshipers for gift card contributions for a worthy cause. Appeals are often made by email, but we’ve heard people are also getting texts and phone calls, too.

The bogus emails often include the name of the local pastor and a legitimate looking email address. But a closer look should raise some red flags. For example, the email address isn’t the one normally used by the church, and the service provider is different, too. The message may begin with a simple “Hi,” but doesn’t include a recipients’ name. There also may be spelling errors, including the pastor’s name.

The imposter asks you to buy a popular gift card — frequently, iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon — and then asks for the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let the scammer immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. And once that’s done, the scammer and your money are gone, usually without a trace.

If you or someone you know paid a scammer with a gift card, report it as soon as possible. Call the card company and tell them the gift card was used in a scam. Then, tell the FTC about it at ftc.gov/complaint. Your reports may help law enforcement agencies launch investigations that could stop imposters and other fraudsters in their tracks.

From the Federal Trade Commission. Reprinted with permission from consumer.ftc.gov

Remembering the Lives of Church Saints
On All Saints Day, November 3, we publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, we toll the church bell of remembrance, and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us. If you have lost a loved one in the last year, submit their name to be read. Please contact Leslie in the church office before Tuesday, October 29 by phone 440-526-8938 or email leslie@brecksvilleumc.com.

Charge Conference: Saturday, November 9 from 1—3 pm
Aldergate UMC, 4069 Eastwood Ln, Warrenville Heights. We will be meeting with other East Side United Methodist Churches to worship and review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. All church members are encouraged to attend!

One Worship Service on Veterans Sunday
November 10 at 10 am—We set aside a Sunday to honor our veterans and the sacrificed they made for our freedoms. After the service, everyone is invited to a simple celebration luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

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Our annual stewardship focus is an opportunity to make a commitment to God. How will you use your time, abilities, and finances to grow closer to God and make an impact for Christ in 2020? We’re challenging you to Worship + 2 and a Tithe.

- Make a commitment of coming to worship in 2020. Look at how often you’re coming now and challenge yourself to increase that a bit.
- Commit to learning together in the coming year. Join a Sunday School class, bible study, or small group!
- Commit to serving others in 2020. There is a plethora of ways to serve both within our church and outside its walls!
- Is 2020 the year you’re going to challenge yourself to trust God by tithing? A tithe is the biblical standard for giving God the first 10% of your income.

Worship + 2 and a Tithe is a simple way to be mindful of what we are called to as disciples: worship, learning together, serving, and giving financially.

Do you need a commitment card? Pick one up at church, or download a copy from the church website:
www.brecksvilleumc.com

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TAKE TIME FOR FAMILY FUN!

Autumn is calling and you won’t regret answering, especially if you make time for togetherness. There are so many ways to enjoy the season. Need inspiration? Here are some ideas for making memories this fall!

- Visit an apple orchard
- Have a cider tea party
- Do an apple varieties taste test
- Make homemade applesauce
- Make caramel apples
- Bake apple chips
- Make an apple stamp
- Bob for apples

Feast on Fall Foods
- Make popcorn balls
- Make hot chocolate with marshmallows
- Set up a fire pit for s’mores and stories

Make Time to Play
- Attend a local football game.
- Play flag football in the yard.
- Play hide-and-seek with glow sticks.

Jump into a pile of leaves
Decorate stationary with homemade leaf stamps
Roll down a hill and listen to the crunching leaves beneath you
Collect acorns and paint faces on them
Iron leaves between sheets of wax paper to hang in the window
Visit an arboretum
Take a drive to look at fall foliage
Collect pinecones and decorate a mantle or tabletop
Play “I Spy” on a nature walk
Visit a park and bring along a tree or bird guidebook
Go on a color walk, spotting red, orange, red & brown

- Build a scarecrow
- Have a pumpkin carving party. Toast pumpkin seeds!
- Go on a hayride
- Take a family bike ride

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 1
Brecksville Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting & Fireworks
Parade steps off at 4 pm
Reception at Brecksville UMC
Hot chocolate, caroling, cookies, and crafts!

LET’S GO CAROLING!
Wed. 12/18 at 5 pm

GIVE THANKS

- Craft the classic handprint turkey
- Create personalized Thanksgiving place mats for your whole family
- Make a thankfulness tree and fill each leaf with thanks
- Write daily in a daily gratitude journal. Follow our church on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for daily prompts in October!

Welcome the Season!
12/4 Evening Advent Service and Free Soup Supper

Christmas Eve Services
12/24 Family service at 5 pm. Candlelight at 8 & 10.
**Saturday, November 16**

Come help prepare the church yard for winter! We’ll be raking leaves, picking up twigs and tidying up. Bring your gloves and rakes!

We’ll start at 8:30 and work until we’re done. With your help, that will be in no time at all.

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**Energize Youth Worship and Overnight**
*Saturday, November 2 at 5:30 pm through Sunday, November 3—FREE!*

Hey 6th-12 graders, we are heading to Newcomerstown once again for the most exciting overnight of the fall, and this year is more fun than ever. There will be a waffle bar, cheesecake bar, and endless slushies! Giant hamster balls and an epic rave room! But the fun doesn’t stop when the party is over. The Meta kids are hosting us for a lock-in! In the morning, we will join them at their Sunday worship. This event is 100% FREE. All it requires is an RSVP. Let Dana know you’ll be there: youth@brecksvilleumc.com

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**All Youth Dinner**
*Sunday, November 3 from 5-7 pm—FREE!*

Join us for our monthly dinner for middle and high schoolers, hosted by Kim and Tony Petro! It’s going to be a genuine “Friendsgiving” meal where we will gather around the table and share a meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, and all your other holiday favorites. Bring a friend that you are thankful for and join our youth ministry family as we gather with grateful hearts. After dinner, we will make our ‘thank you’ cards to be given to vets at our church Veteran’s Day Luncheon. Come to the Fellowship Hall for a true feast and know that we are thankful for YOU! Please RSVP (so we know how big of a turkey to get) before November 1.

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**CCYM’s Project Feed** *(Conference Council on Youth Ministry)*
*Sunday, November 17 from 1—4:30 pm. $10 and a canned food item*

East Ohio Conference youth continue to set an example of the cooperative ministry that is needed to reach out into our mission fields, both at home and around the world. On November 16-17 teens and their adult leaders from the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church hope to pack 100,000 meals that will be sent to developing countries around the world. Will you join us? Open to 6th-12 graders and their families! Let Dana know you are interested: youth@brecksvilleumc.com. There will be NO YOUTH GROUP Nov 17 due to this event

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**BRECKSVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE**

**Sunday, December 1**

The parade steps off at 4 pm. After the fireworks, we’ll gather in Fellowship Hall for cookies and hot chocolate! See you there!

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**Stay Connected!**
Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry
440-526-8938 ext. 237 or youth@brecksvilleumc.com
Care Packages. Wednesday, November 6 at 6:30 pm. Our Evening Circle will be assembling small boxes of treats to mail to young people attending college or serving in the military. At a time of the year when it can be hard to be far from home, this small act of kindness is a reminder of the love we have for each person receiving a care package. Come be a part of it!

Asbury Bremeth Meets Thursday, November 14. “I’d Like You More If You Were More Like Me” is the name of our current study. Join us at 9:30 for fellowship. Study starts at 10 am. Hope you’ll join us!

Supporting the Sisterhood. West Side Community House has provided services to children and youth in Cleveland since 1890. Their Sisterhood program prepares girls ages 10 – 18 for womanhood and their life beyond with after-school and summer activities. Throughout the school year, arts and creativity are interwoven into the curriculum which has a focus on literacy. Each year, the Brecksville United Methodist Women support the Sisterhood’s annual holiday party by providing gifts for each girl. Would you like to sponsor a gift? Gretchen Mates will be in the church lobby on Sunday mornings starting November 3 with each girl’s wish list. Buy a gift and return it to church by Sunday, December 8!

Christmas Bags for Head Start Thursday, November 7—Join us for a casual time to make a craft and assemble the Maple Heights Head Start preschoolers Christmas bags. Activities start with a continental breakfast at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome for an enjoyable morning. See you there?

Our "Bakin' for Bibles" bake sale raised $700 for Recovery Bibles for prison ministry. Your support, plus $100 contributed by the district’s lay leadership seminar, came at a time when RAHAB Ministry greatly needed the money. Faith in God includes faith in God’s timing!

Order Form

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Order by Sunday, 11/17.
Payment due with order.
Pre-order only: no extras will be available!
Pick up at church on Sunday, 11/24
Make checks payable to BUMW
Pies are sold frozen. Bake at 375º for 90 minutes.

Do you shop at Acme? Save your receipts! We'll earn cash back for the UMW Missions Fund for qualifying purchases on receipts dated through December 15. Bring yours to the collection bin in the first floor coat room.
Wedding bells have been ringing! Allyson Wischmeier and David Vastartis were wed September 28; Amberly Fraser and Jeff Barno tied the knot October 12; and Chelsea Wagner and Brian Kinaitis said “I do” on October 19. We wish each of you a lifetime of happiness!

On October 13 we celebrated the baptism of Cydney Rose Tormento, daughter of Olivia and Nick (and great granddaughter of Loretta Timms.) As Cydney begins her lifelong journey of faith in this nurturing community, may she always know what it means that God loves her.

The Brecksville Broadview Heights Drama Department presents You Can’t Take It With You October 31—November 2, featuring Carly Kubek in the lead role of Penelope Sycamore!

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. Folks like Ann Rittman, who serves as chair of our Gifts & Memorials Committee and leads our Sunday Counters Team. We’re thankful for your calm and positive presence and leadership, Ann! Joan and Bob Bloch were such a help on Third Grade Bible Sunday. Thank you for helping provide radical hospitality for all at the reception in Fellowship Hall. John Brachna is a treat. We’re thankful for his commitment to being a lay servant and for delivering our children’s moment with such panache—and on short notice, too! Have you been enjoying our new and improved coffee hour? That’s thanks to Bob Snyderwine, who is taking this act of hospitality to the next level. Thank you, Bob, for seeing an opportunity to serve and filling in that void! Every day, we thank God for each of you, named and unnamed. Amen!
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<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Pie Pick Up Day</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>10 Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>BBH Schools</td>
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<td>Break Begins</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>9:30 UMW</td>
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<td>Offices Closed.</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Happy Thanksgiving!</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>10 Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>Break Begins</td>
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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.
ENERGIZE 2019

ENERGIZING WORSHIP + EPIC AFTER PARTY

HUMAN HAMSTER BALLS
* CHEESE CAKE BAR
* WAFFLE BAR
* SLUSHY MACHINE

GLOW IN THE DARK RAVE ROOM

NOV 2 7-10 PM

META STUDENT MINISTRIES
Christ UMC
648 Oak Street Newcomerstown OH
(740)498-8134
facebook.com/profoundmeta

PHOTO BOOTH

FOR STUDENTS 6TH TO 12TH GRADE! FREE!!
Emmet Cahill in Concert
Sunday December 1 at 3 pm
Strongsville United Methodist Church.

Experience the magic of holiday music with Ireland’s most exciting young tenor, Emmet Cahill. Formerly of the international singing group Celtic Thunder (as seen on PBS), Emmet will take you on a journey to "Christmas In Ireland". Having recently sold out New York’s Carnegie Hall, Emmet returns to Ohio to perform all of your holiday favorites, as well as classic Irish songs from the Emerald Isle: O Holy Night, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Danny Boy, An Irish Lullaby and so much more. No Emmet Cahill concert is complete without his ever-popular “Request Medley”, which often springs some surprises from the audience! Don’t miss this wonderful evening of music that will leave you in the perfect mood for the holiday season! Tickets are $30 General Admission; $45 Meet and Greet (which starts at 1:30 pm) + Concert. Tickets available at 440-238-6135 and emmetcahill.com.