Something special happens when kids lead worship. This year, it started on the first day young people got together to begin planning and choosing a theme for the service. That’s right, children ages 6 and up have been imagining, creating, and planning for this service for weeks and will lead us in worship and song in one worship service at 10 am in the Sanctuary. This service is a gift from the children to this whole church family and your presence is a gift to the kids!

Worship at 7 pm in the Sanctuary
Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the forty days of Lent, is a day of repentance and preparation. We begin this Lenten season together in worship. This first day of Lent is celebrated with a reflective worship experience, including the imposition of ashes which serve as a symbol of repentance. We lay aside any burden or habit that separates us from the love of God, a love that is continually present in our lives. All are welcome. All the time!
Four and a half years ago I began meeting with a group of pastors to help keep me accountable to growing as a disciple of Jesus and for support through this thing called “ministry.” We call ourselves the Order of St. Jude. In our founding document we declare, “We humbly recognize that we cannot save the Church. We have taken the name of Saint Jude both for his stand against the false teachings of his day and for his traditional title as the Patron of Lost Causes.”

When I first joined the group, the statement that “we cannot save the Church” bothered me: “What do you mean we can’t ‘save the Church?!’ We have to at least try! Isn’t it worth saving?”

But over time I began to realize: being a Jesus follower isn’t about being a United Methodist. Yes, I love this Church and her history and heritage grounded in a movement meant to get Christians to live transformed lives for Jesus. But this church is not the movement it once was. And the continuation of Jesus’ message in this broken world is not contingent on The United Methodist Church staying the same as it is now. And what’s more, I’ve come to realize it’s not my job to fix the church—it belongs to Jesus, and he has it covered.

What is my job—our job—is to become the most Jesus loving, disciple-making, and Jesus’ love sharing church we can be. Bishop Gary Mueller of the Arkansas Annual Conference recently wrote,

“…ultimately, local congregations matter more than denominations—even our beloved United Methodist denomination. People need your local church, not a denomination. Your community needs your local church, not a denomination. And most importantly, Jesus needs your local church, not a denomination. This means the single most pressing task is enabling your church that has a unique location, is filled with a unique group of people, and possesses a unique history to become the church Jesus wants you to be.”

Church, I couldn’t agree more. I don’t know what’s going to happen in May to our beloved United Methodist Church. But what I DO know, is that no matter what, we will continue to be who we are at Brecksville United Methodist Church. We just might have a different name.

And now, more than ever, it’s important for us to know what makes BUMC unique as a gathering of Christ-followers. What is God’s unique thumbprint for our church? What does our church do better than 10,000 others? Where is God taking us? For the next year, we will be working on discerning our unique culture here at BUMC. We need you to participate in this vision-casting, culture-capturing process.

Continued on next page…
East Ohio Camps! Explore an adventure of Faith, Fun, and Friendship through East Ohio Camps. Register early! Popular events fill up quickly. For information about all of the Methodist Summer Camps, contact Jenny Gee (440-526-8938 x 230), visit www.EOCSummercamps.org or call the East Ohio Camps Office at 800-831-3972 ext. 108 or 120.

Vacation Bible School. Kids will take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God’s love in a world that needs it more than ever. Join us July 6 -10. Registration opens soon.

YSP Junior & Youth Annual Conference. June 11—14. Service, learning, fun and friendship—on the shores of Lake Erie. Want the details? E-mail Dana Schwendeman: youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Classroom Antics. Here July 27-31. Brecksville UMC will be the site of a weeklong full or half-day camp in LEGO Robotics, Minecraft Coding, Computer Programming, Video Game Design, Video Production or Stop-Motion Animation. Camps are for kids ages 6-13. Learn more: www.classroomantics.com/summer-tech-camps-in-brecksville-ohio/

All Church Lenten Study

During the 6-weeks of Lent, we will gather in small groups to study the book Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus, by Mike Slaughter. Like this past Advent, we will have small group opportunities at different times throughout the week, and you’re invited to form your own groups with friends and family, whenever it fits your schedules! Each class begins with a video, making it easy to lead and participate! Participants can purchase a book for $9 through the church. Small groups will begin the week of March 2.

A little bit about Renegade Gospel:

Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our pre-conceived notions about what God should look like. Joining his movement will mean coming to terms with the real Jesus, the rebel Jesus. Jesus didn’t come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. In Renegade Gospel, pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to help us discover Jesus all over again. This study will be easily accessible to those who are just beginning on their faith journey, and at the same time challenging to those who have been Jesus followers for decades. Please contact the church office or ask Pastor Heidi or Jenny Gee to sign up or for more information: 440-526-8938 or education@brecksvilleumc.com

Continued from previous page….

Are you willing to join a core team who will meet monthly to work through the book Church Unique, by Will Mancini to help navigate the process to make our unique, local vision a reality?

Are you willing to participate in focus groups both inside and outside our church community?

Are you willing to cover this entire process in intentional prayer?

If you are interested in participating in the future of our church in one of these ways, please contact the office or myself: pastor@brecksvilleumc.com. And be assured, the hard work done in the past with Dr. Dave Martin and your insights from the Home Gatherings will not be ignored.

The painful reality is that we United Methodists face an uncertain future. But it’s not our job to fix it. It’s our job to remain grounded on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ and who he has called us to be. If we do that, we will be just fine. It is an honor and privilege to walk with you. I believe in you. I trust you. And, most importantly, I love you.

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor
UMW Meets Thursday, February 6
As we begin a new year, we welcome new UMW Officers. At our February meeting, Kathy Sopka (pictured left) will be sworn in as President, and Marilyn Huber, as secretary. Doris Moten, President of the UMW Northcoast District will be there to perform the ceremony. Please come and support our new officers! A continental breakfast will be available at 9:30 am with the program beginning 10 am followed by the business meeting. Jill Herman from the Ohio Adult Parole Authority is our scheduled speaker. (You may know Jill as Ruth Herman’s daughter!)

Cookies for Service Members: United Methodist Women are collecting cookies for the USO Canteen at CLE Airport. Bring your cookies, packaged 6 to a bag and marked USO to the big freezer in the kitchen by 2/13.

Soup for Brookside: Through Feb. 20, we’re collecting canned soups for Brookside Food Center in the coat room collection bin.

Empty Bowls: The Kiwanis Club of Brecksville and the Broadview Heights Lions Club host this annual dinner to raise money for Brecksville Food Bank and South Hills Lend-a-Hand. This year’s event is Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 5 pm at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center at Brecksville and Wallings Roads. Kathy Sopka will be selling tickets on Sundays in the Parlor!

Other News of Note:
- Asbury Bremeth: Thursday, February 13 at 9:30 am is the date for this educational meeting led by Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education. All are invited.
- UMW Board Meeting Friday, February 28 at 9:30 am in the parlor.
- Evening Circle: No meeting this month.

Getting Spokes to Folks!
Are you mechanically minded or show good attention to detail? We need your help! Come join a great group of handy people who are dedicated to fixing and restoring our old bikes. They will guide you with how to take the old and fix them up so that they are ready to be ridden and enjoyed by adults and kids in Northeast Ohio. The next dates are Feb 8, Feb 22 and March 7 from 9 am until noon. We have lots of work to do to meet our goal of providing 100 bikes to a youth event in Cleveland Heights this spring - and the stage needs to be cleared for Music with a Mission on March 8! Questions? Contact Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com.

We are immensely grateful for all who have returned commitment cards for 2020. Your gifts, presence, service and prayers fuel our ministry and mission. At a well-attended Church Council meeting 1/7/2020, Council unanimously approved budget for 2020 with a $30,000 deficit - on faith that our church family will opt to bridge the gap as opposed to cutting staff, programs or missions. If you have not yet completed a commitment card, we encourage you to do so. If you have, we encourage you to consider an additional gift of $5/week. As a family we can do this!
**Scout Sunday: February 9, 2020**
Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 175 invite the congregation to enjoy a Pancake Breakfast of Appreciation between worship services in Fellowship Hall on Scout Sunday, February 9. Brecksville United Methodist Church has been the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 175 since 1942. Did you know that only three of every 100 Scouts rise to the rank of Eagle? In the 78 years Troop 175 has been chartered to our church, 133 members of the troop have become Eagle Scouts!

MUSIC WITH A MISSION 2020

FAMILY

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 AT 5 PM

Save the date for dinner and a show
Food, fun and music for a great cause -
the Youth Service Project Trip!

**NOW ON SUNDAY!**

Details coming soon.

Tickets will be on sale Sundays in February.

Donations for the evening’s silent auction wanted!

If you would like to be involved in the show (or help in any way)
please contact our Director of Youth Ministry,
Dana Schwendeman at youth@brecksvilleumc.com
or 440-526-8938
We’re packing meals to fight hunger world-wide!

Calling all cooks! Dust off your chili recipe and get to work for a great cause! Chef Rasul Welch is challenging you to cook your best chili to raise money for Puerto Rico Disaster Relief! Sign up at church on Sunday, or contact the office.

Calling all hungry folks! Come enjoy a meal of great chili and cast your vote for the “people’s choice” award. A freewill offering will be collected for UMCOR’s disaster relief fund for Puerto Rico. Sign up today in the Parlor or contact the office!

Join us for a special Sunday of putting faith into action. "Work-ship" Sunday will be held in Fellowship Hall, with two shifts (9:30 and 11 am) for packaging nourishing meals to help people across the world. Our church held meal packing events here in 2013 and 2016 and has supported youth meal packaging events (Project Feed and Stop Hunger Now.)

A meal costs about 33 cents. Missions and Outreach is challenging the congregation to raise $7,500, which they will match dollar for dollar. Give on Sunday or give online:

- Mark your gift “Rise Against Hunger”
- Register for a shift and/or donate at tinyurl.com/r2flkxp
- Give through our church’s secure online giving portal, Realm, at this link: https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/Give. Choose “Project Feed” as your fund code.

Kids can get involved by contributing to our "loose change" jar on Sundays.

Here are some examples to think about:
- A $15 pizza many of us enjoy would equal about 45 meals
- A $3.50 Starbucks drink = about 10 meals
- Dinner for two? $40 - $80 = 121 - 242 meals

We are very excited to bring this opportunity back to Brecksville UMC and to partner with you to meet the challenge of raising $15,000 for nourishing meals!

- Blessings to you, your families and friends, Missions & Outreach Committee
BLOOD DRIVE

While supplies last, all donors will receive a pair of Vitalant touch screen gloves!

Make the most of the moment

Join us for a community blood drive at

Brecksville United Methodist Church.

Sunday, February 23rd
9:45 AM - 1:45 PM
65 Public Square
Brecksville, OH

REGISTER AT WWW.VITALANT.ORG/OHIODONORPORTAL
**What is the Gathering?** The Gathering is what we are calling our new vision for youth programming. The inspiration behind this vision is Matthew 18:20, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.” God wants us to spend time together, exploring our faith and having fun. In an approachable, low-pressure environment we invite all students in grades 6 through 12 to join us for this new and exciting look at youth programming. Here are just a few of the elements that we are happy to share:

**Elements of the Gathering**

- Bible study using *The Bible Project*, a free online resource!
- Easy and fun tabletop games that anyone can play.
- High school and middle school meet together.
- 4-6 pm on first and third Sundays of the month (unless otherwise noted)

**Not Just on Sundays:** We want to connect with you outside of Sunday afternoons and here’s how:

- Follow us on Instagram for weekly polls, devotions, and encouragement. It’s a wonderful way for us to interact with students and caregivers. Search for us @bumcyouthmin!
- There will be weekly caregiver emails sent out with lots of good information. If you already receive the monthly youth newsletter you will be receiving this as well. This email will have links, tips, and tools to help caregivers have spiritual conversations with their youth about what they are learning at The Gathering. It will also have event date reminders and updated information about all things youth at BUMC. If you are not signed up, email Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com to subscribe!
- Dana wants to come and cheer you on! Are you on a team or in a club with a big event coming up? Give Dana your schedule and she will try to come cheer you on. We are proud of our hard-working youth and we want to celebrate you!

**Join Us at The Gathering in February!**

- See you on **February 16th** from 4-6 pm in the youth room!

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**The 2019 Hat and Mitten Tree was filled with…**

- 23 Scarves
- 24 Sets of Hats and Gloves
- 62 Gloves/Mittens

That adds up to a whole lot of warmth for those in need.

The Missions and Outreach Committee is arranging delivery of these items now. Thank you for being part of this lovely ministry!

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**Prayer and Praise Notes**

To request prayer through our Prayer Chain, call the Church Office 440.526.8938 or contact Elinor Rowan at 440.230.1540 or elrowan33@aol.com.
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 Tracy & Dion Adanich, who bring such a joyful spirit to church and who stepped in to help when help was needed on a January Sunday morning. Dave Brown, whose servant heart is so big that when he was a Sunday liturgist, he asked if he could help lead us in song, too! Dave is also a church closer, a counter, and a member of the choir and men’s ensemble. We’re thankful for all of the ways you are part of this church family, Dave! Craig Kotnik’s gift for music is a special gift for our congregation. Craig’s playing and singing brings light to our worship services. He and Mary are always ready to step in and help when help is needed. We’re so thankful for the two of you! And the Aubles. What can we say about the Aubles? The joyfulness that you bring to Sunday mornings is a gift to God. Thank you for being who you are! We are thankful for each member of this church family. Know that if you are reading this, you—yes, you! - are kept in prayer every day!

Jim and Linda Rollins became part of our church family in the early 80s. On January 21, Jim moved on to the church triumphant. We will celebrate his life and surround his family with love on Sunday, February 2 at 2 pm in the church sanctuary, Pastor Heidi officiating.

Nancy Lee has asked us to extend her thanks to Janet Kleckner and all of the people of the Missions & Outreach Committee who helped her have a successful jewelry sale for Laura’s Home. Because of the support of this church family, her sale raised $532 for Laura’s Home, an organization helping women and children move out of poverty.

On Sunday, January 12, the day the church remembers the baptism of Jesus, we celebrated the baptism of twins Henry and Jack McCrodden. It was a joy filled morning, as we surrounded the twins and their parents Brian and Monica, with love and prayer.

Doris Cipolla 1 | Pam Johnson 10 | Barbara Bartholomew 18
Grant Kardos 1 | Doug Bender 11 | Scott Campbell 18
Douglas Hubert 2 | Maria Hocutt 12 | Jack Kenney 18
Gail Meyer 2 | Gladys Smith 12 | Allie Kenney 19
Colin Johnson 3 | Leslie Hoffman 13 | Zoey Tormento 19
Brooke Toman 3 | Bill Hurder 13 | Matthew Ling 20
Barbara Solits 4 | Monica Kotnik 13 | Dan Rajkovich 22
Colin Hamilton 5 | Andrew Kubek 13 | John Rice 22
Faith McAllister 5 | Mallory McCrodden 13 | Steve Warth 22
Lynn Spencer 5 | Ellen Falko 14 | Erin Gee 23
Paul Olsko 6 | Lucy Fesler 14 | Pastor Heidi Welch 23
Chloe Boldt 7 | Dorothy Jordan 14 | Janet Kleckner 24
Greg Spencer 7 | Nathaniel Robusto 15 | Eric Louttit 24
Becky Chen 8 | Abby Smith 15 | Patrick Hehr 25
Nancy Knowlton 8 | Matthew Miller 16 | Nancy Wygonski 25
Chad Boldt 9 | Stephanie Fisher 17 | Leo Patterson 26
Chloe Brubaker 9 | Grace Ford 17 | Angela Harper 27
Sarah Nurre 9 | Christine Hudacek 17 | Emily Hastings 27
Bob Williams 9 | Emma Piorkowski 17 | Taylor Whitton 27

TUESDAY, FEB. 11 AT NOON
It’s free if you RSVP!
440-526-8938
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<td>Kids Lead Worship Communion Sunday</td>
<td>10 Staff Mtg</td>
<td>Staff Mtg</td>
<td>6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>UMW delivers Brookside Donations</td>
<td>9:30 Mom’s Club Meets Here</td>
<td>Bread Ministry: Gee</td>
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<td>10 ONE SERVICE</td>
<td>11:30 Talk With the Team</td>
<td>10 Lunch Bunch</td>
<td>6:30 Breakfast</td>
<td>UMW delivers Brookside Donations</td>
<td>9:30 Mom’s Club Meets Here</td>
<td>9-12 Bike Repair Day</td>
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<td>Scouting Ministries Sunday</td>
<td>Staff Mtg</td>
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<td>Asbury Bremeth</td>
<td>UMW delivers Brookside Donations</td>
<td>Bread Ministry: TBD</td>
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<td>8:45 Worship</td>
<td>10 Pancake Breakfast</td>
<td>12 Lunch Bunch</td>
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<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth</td>
<td>You are loved! Happy Valentine’s Day!</td>
<td>8:45 Worship</td>
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<td>10 Classes for All</td>
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<td>9:30 Asbury Bremeth</td>
<td>12:30 USO Cookie Pickup 6:30 General Conference 2020 Info</td>
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<td>Happy Birthday Pastor Heidi!</td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td>7:30 Choir</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Worship Service</td>
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<td>9:30 UMW Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bread Ministry: TBD</td>
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For details and more information visit www.brecksvilleumc.com
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.

Love never gives up

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7