As of July 1, I will have been at Brecksville United Methodist Church for one year. It’s hard to believe it’s only been one year. So much has happened and I have been welcomed so well, that this feels like Brecksville has always been home.

But this week I needed the reminder that it’s only been a year, because it reminds me that even though something can seem like forever, that doesn’t mean it has been.

It feels like forever since we worshipped together in the sanctuary.

It feels like forever since we listened to the (bad) dad jokes at Music with a Mission.

It feels like forever since we walked up to someone and greeted them with a kind handshake or hug.

But it really hasn’t been forever.

This past week I was reminded of what Ecclesiastes 3:1 has to say: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” This, too, is only a season.

A season of wearing masks not because we like them, but because we love each other.

A season of being distant as a way to care for one another.

A season of living in our discomfort zone so that we can beat this illness.

And in this season we are reminded of the truth about church:

“The church is not the building, but the people” isn’t just a saying, but reality.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united no matter where we are physically.

The church is not a business like a grocery store or restaurant, but a mission outpost. Our bottom-line isn’t the almighty dollar, but whether we are reaching people for the Almighty God. Like Jenny said, “You can’t be a grocery store at home, but you can be the church at home”… or really anywhere!

Continued on next page...
And **nothing can close the church— not even a pandemic. We will still be God's people, witnessing in love wherever we are, supporting one another, and growing in our love of God.**

Time is weird. But our God is big. And this holy disturbance that we are experiencing and participating in will change us for the better.

I’m so grateful that God has placed me here “for such a time as this.” And I can’t wait to see what the next year will bring!

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Have you been missing the Sacrament of Holy Communion? So have we! We think we have found a way that we can all safely share Communion together on Sunday, July 12 at 11 am or 12 pm.

Sign up to attend a brief Communion Service in the Brecksville UMC parking lot—a way we can more safely share in this Sacrament together.

Bring your own bread and juice, or reserve individually bagged elements. Participants will be invited to park in every other spot, joining the service from your tailgate or camping chair behind your car. Don’t forget to wear your masks!

No, it’s not what we’re used to, but God is present in every circumstance, and God will meet us as we gather around this unusual “table.” Join us!

Because of limited space, registration is required. If both services fill we will add more! **One car per registration. There are 30 parking spaces available per service.**


Or call 440-526-8938 or email office@brecksvilleumc.com
This summer we are taking a look at Jesus’ famous “Sermon on the Mount.” In this sermon, Jesus describes what it looks like to follow him and live in God’s kingdom “here on earth as it is in heaven.” He uses “but” statements to compare what “the world” says to what God calls us to do. As we are in the midst of this “holy disturbance” of COVID-19 and social unrest, use these scriptures as a prompt to think about how God is calling us to live differently in this world as we follow the Way of Jesus.

- 7/5 The Lord’s Prayer—Matthew 6:5-14
- 7/12 Serving Two Masters—Matthew 6:19-21;24
- 7/19 Do Not Worry—Matthew 6:25-34
- 7/26 Judging Others—Matthew 7:1-5

8:46 Prayer—The United Methodist Council of Bishops has asked every United Methodist everywhere to join in prayer at 8:46 am and pm for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the time it took for the officer to remove his knee from George Floyd’s neck. “Do this for at least the next 30 days. Pray for all persons of color who suffer at the hands of injustice and oppression. Pray for our church as we take a stand against racism. Imagine the power of a concert of prayer heard around the world!”

VBS Goes Virtual this Year  In these strange times of social distancing we were sad, at first, to realize that we couldn’t risk holding our Vacation Bible School in its traditional manner. We usually have up to 120 children and close to 50 youth and adult volunteers helping make it all happen. All the joy and energy of the week just couldn’t happen safely with masks and with safe distancing… so what is a VBS team to do? Like so much else this year… we decided to take VBS into the home!!

How could that work, you ask? Through the magic of technology and the generous spirit of our awesome volunteers we are putting together videos that walk parents and their kids through the science experiments, crafts, games and Bible story. They are even learning the hand motions to the songs and the sign language for the phrase of the day. If families registered online they will have all the materials delivered right to their doorstep by our masked gophers!

If you happen to be on a Zoom call, or pass by any one of these people (and you can recognize them under their mask) give a big VBS thank you to:

Grace Auble • Michelle, Hanna, Joe and Eliza Botzman • Leanne, Evan, Ella and Eddie Davis • George, Bridget and Erin Gee • Adrienne Leska • Becky Paroda • Jennifer, Payton and Hudson Schnieder • Melanie Smith

…and our super awesome gopher team!!

Although this is not what we imagined earlier this year, it is a super big thrill to think about bringing the fun of learning about Jesus into our families’ homes. Check out next month’s Good Word for pictures and reports from our first ever Virtual VBS! And if your kids would like to join the fun, email me! education@brecksvilleumc.com

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education
The first 5 months of the year have undoubtedly experienced a lot of ups and downs, but from a finance perspective at BUMC, we are on the right track! Our revenues are on pace with expenses as we head into the dog days of summer. Here is how we have received our revenues so far. The orange section represents monthly pledges (50% of revenue). Other income: facilities rental, interest income, loose offerings and corporate giving.

Since the pandemic, the staff has been very aware and cautious of our spending (we are frugal Methodists, after all!). We cut back where we could, and we have spent $5,000 less than what we budgeted for! The majority of our spending, as with any service oriented company, goes to paying our staff. Along with salaries, this also includes health insurance, pensions, taxes and worker’s compensation, to name a few. The graph at left illustrates how we have spent our income.

Any questions? Ask a Finance Committee member or feel free to email Becky at finance@brecksvilleumc.com.

As always, and especially now, we thank you for your support! You make the ministries of this church possible, and your gifts help others see and feel God’s love in action.
The safety of all who enter Breckville United Methodist Church has always been a top priority. Coronavirus has presented many new safety challenges for everyone using the church building. To address the safety precautions that are needed at this time, the church has adopted what is called the “Building Use Addendum”. This addendum provides standards for groups and individuals that will be followed as they use the church building and grounds. The addendum was written using best safety practices from Federal, State and local medical sources as well as guidelines from the United Methodist Church. The addendum is to be followed by all who use the building—both church groups and outside groups. These requirements will remain in effect until further notice for the safety of everyone using the church and will be revised as needed as new information becomes available. The book of Ecclesiastes tells us “there is a season and time for everything under heaven.” Right now is our time to work together and take the necessary precautions to help ensure the safety and health of all who enter our church building. - Jeff Hastings, Facilities Manager

Here are some of the guidelines. Please see the complete addendum on our website or request a paper copy.

☐ The Church Building will be unlocked for scheduled groups.
☐ Groups use the room assigned and restrooms on the floor assigned.
☐ Face masks are to be worn by all who enter the building and by all who meet on the church grounds.
☐ Hands must be washed or sanitized before entering the building.
☐ Social distancing of at least six feet must be maintained between people at all times.
☐ Groups should not share coffee or other refreshments at meetings.
☐ No child care or other rooms will be available for children.
☐ The church will regularly sanitize high touch areas, but the church cannot guarantee a coronavirus free environment as the virus is invisible and can be brought in at any time by anyone.
☐ If your group learns that someone in your group has tested positive for the coronavirus and that person has been in the church within the past 14 days you must notify the church immediately.
☐ You must take attendance and provide a list of attendees to the church office by email: office@brecksvilleumc.com.
☐ As circulated air effectively spreads the disease, the use of Air Conditioning and Fans is suspended when groups are in session. As possible and necessary, rooms will be cooled prior to meetings.

Facility Use in a time of Pandemic

Nathan Hudacek says thank you to all who sent congratulatory graduation cards. It really brightened his day and made him feel extra special! Chase Boldt and his family said that the delivery he received for his graduation was such a nice surprise. He was excited to see all the notes on the packages. Emma was excited to receive her gift basket and said, “Just the kid in me, I love the stickers!”

The Nelsons said, “Thanks so much to all for both the card shower and the gift bag of ‘essential supplies’. Jake loved them and it really meant a lot to him in an otherwise turbulent senior year! And special kudos to whoever labeled all the treats!”

The Boldts said “It’s a blessing to be a part of the church and we’re grateful for the generosity of the time and effort put into these deliveries. Our seniors certainly appreciate them and know they are not forgotten.”

The Class of 2020 wants to let you know how special you made them feel last month!
Thank you to all who took the time to fill out our “Regathering Survey!” We had 132 responses. Those results guided the discussion during our 6/22/2020 leadership meeting which focused on if and when we might gather for in-person worship. There were a few notable results from the survey:

- 56% of those who responded felt they or someone in their home is in one of the “high-risk” categories.
- When asked when you will be comfortable attending in-person worship, this is how you responded:
  - 19% are comfortable now
  - 11% will be comfortable this summer
  - 8% will be comfortable this fall
  - 40% will be comfortable attending when a vaccine or treatment becomes widely available
- When asked if you would attend an outdoor service in the parking lot:
  - 74% said yes
  - 26% said no
- When asked if you would be willing to attend an indoor service:
  - 50% said yes
  - 43% said no
- When asked if your pattern of worship will change:
  - 6% will worship exclusively online
  - 60% will worship online as well as in-person
  - 28% will return to your former pattern of worship

During the leadership meeting, we reviewed the survey results and the current COVID-19 trends in Ohio. We had very good conversation about our desire to regather for in-person worship and the risks associated with doing so. Primary concerns included the recent steady increase in COVID-19 cases in Ohio over the past five days. As of June 22, 2020, the number of cases reported in the last 24-hours was 729. Also, the Bishop has not yet moved us from “Phase 2” to “Phase 3” of the UMC plan.

At the end of the meeting, we narrowed the question to whether it was safe to gather for outdoor worship, assuming all precautions (masks, hand sanitizer, 6 feet social distancing, etc.) were in place and assuming we would not attempt to gather until at least July 17. The leadership voted and, based upon the information currently available, the overwhelming majority (14:4) voted to not reconvene beginning July 19. However, recognizing the desire by many of our congregation to gather in-person, there was a consensus that the staff should continue to prepare for in-person worship (assuming it would take place outdoors) so that we will be ready should the trends materially change in a positive direction or should the Bishop moves us to “Phase 3”. In either case, we will reconvene leadership to vote.

We continue to encourage small groups to gather for connection. Options include gathering in small groups for worship, prayer, and continuing conversation about the scripture or sermon. We also look forward to the “Parking-Lot Communion” on July 12 as an opportunity to gather as a worship community, and discovering new ways we can gather in small groups to worship.—Pastor Heidi and Sue Hastings, Church Council Chairperson
Zoom Game and Trivia Night!
July 19 - RSVP before July 15
Come on down and be a participant on Zoom Game and Trivia Night! We are so excited to host you for a night of games, trivia, and more. This event is open to all middle, high school, and college students. Please RSVP by emailing Dana before July 10. See you there!

Socially Distant Ice Cream on the Square
July 26 at 2 pm - RSVP before July 20
Who’s ready for a socially distant ice cream social? We are! Meet us on the square to walk over to Honey Hut and get some ice cream. Let’s hang out and relax, while remaining safe. With all of our in-person events, masks, social distancing, and hand sanitizer will be required for participation. Please RSVP by email Dana before July 20. This is going to be sweet!

Wednesday Zoom Devos
What are you doing Wednesday morning? Hang out with us together on ZOOM at 10 for devotions and connection. Email Dana for the sign in information. Check out our new devotional series on Instagram (@BUMCYYouthMin) every Wednesday!

Contact Dana
E-mail — youth@brecksvilleumc.com
Voicemail — 440-526-8938 x 237

Brecksville Home Days didn’t happen this year, but you can bring Home Days home, with the UMW’s Famous “Texas-Sized” Chocolate Sheet Cake!

Boil: 2 sticks butter
1 cup water
¼ cup cocoa
In pan combine butter; water; cocoa and bring to boil. Remove from stove and combine flour, sugar, salt. Add to cocoa and beat well. Add eggs, sour cream, soda, and mix. Pour into greased jelly roll pan. Bake in 350 degree oven for 20 minutes. Frost immediately (recipe below!)

Mix: 2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
½ tsp. salt
Frosting: Warm 1 stick butter, ¼ cup milk and 4 T. cocoa until butter is melted. Remove from heat. Beat in 1 lb. or 3 cups powdered sugar and 1 tsp. Vanilla. Spread on top of hot cake.

Add: 2 eggs
½ cup sour cream
1 tsp. soda
Makes one jelly roll pan size or 3 -- 8x8 square pans

State of Kind Bingo—We want YOU to be in a kind state of mind this summer and to help you with that we have created a bingo board full of random acts of kindness challenges that you can complete all summer long. Each completed bingo will qualify you for some awesome prizes!
We have joyful news of new arrivals within our church family!

On May 27, Hallie McDonough was born, a blessing to her parents, Courtney & Brad, and her grandparents, Jack & Cathy Drescher. Congratulations all!

Jessica and Alex Vastartis’s family grew on June 12, when baby Trevor was born. Gabriel and Natalie have a baby brother!

Congratulations to new grandmother Cindy Hubert and welcome to the world, baby Kade!

After 38 years of service to his company, Craig Czarnota is retiring. We wish you so much happiness, Craig, in this new phase of life!

Dear BUMC Friends! Leslie and I are so appreciative for all of the cards, prayers and well wishes that we have received. Your thoughtfulness and prayers have lifted us and no doubt been a powerful force in helping with my healing. I am recovering well from my surgery, but still have some diagnostics and consultation to complete for my treatment plan going forward. With an excellent medical team, your continued support and the help of God’s healing hand I am optimistic for a great outcome. We enjoyed being a part of BUMC, are thankful for the friendships we developed and wish all the best. Stay safe. - Alan and Leslie Phillips

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. Did you know that 11 families have “adopted” flower beds on the church grounds? We’re so thankful for the loving care that they’re providing and for all the ways that care makes the world more beautiful. Thank you, Brenda Calovini, for hearing the call to lead an anti-racism small group and for stepping out in faith and kindness to do it. Tony Petro spread so much joy with his beautiful bird churches. Thank you, Tony, for sharing your gifts with the congregation—and with the birds! We are thankful for each of you, named and unnamed, and all of the ways that you are helping people to see God’s love in action.
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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PREMIERS!**

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**CONNECT WITH SMALL GROUPS** One of the reasons that we yearn to gather together again is for community and connection—so we want to create as many opportunities as possible for people to gather in small groups. Small groups are communities of 6—8 people who gather to connect and grow with others in a relaxed environment. If you’re interested in watching worship services with others, studying a book, going on a hike, learning to be anti-racist, finding God in gardening, or sharing a common interest like knitting or running, please reach out! Not interested in something scheduled? Join one of our Facebook Groups forming now!

[www.facebook.com/Brecksvilleumc](http://www.facebook.com/Brecksvilleumc)
We encourage everyone to stay home and *help stop the spread*, but realize that there may be times that you need to visit the church office. *We are available by appointment only - masks required.*

Please call 440-526-8938 or email Leslie@brecksvilleumc.com

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**Office is**

**Open by appointment only**

**Mondays from 9 - 12**

**Thank you**

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**Electronic Service Requested**

**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.
Armor Up With Truth!
Decorate your picture of Sparky. Sparky is ready to Armor Up with Truth!
Due to COVID-19, we had to make the difficult choice to cancel our Youth Service Project (YSP) trip that was supposed to take place from June 21-27. This is an annual trip that many of our youth look forward to and the unfortunate twists and turns that 2020 has brought to YSP have definitely given us some new perspective on what it means to commit to missions in our everyday lives.

Just because work camp has been cancelled doesn’t mean God isn’t still calling us to passionately pursue being the hands and feet of Christ. In this spirit, a group of YSP participants have committed to following that call, but a little closer to home. Nehemiah Mission is offering "day work camp" experiences and we will be taking a group of 14 on July 20. Nehemiah has informed us that we will be doing exterior home repair, landscape and gardening, and some fixing up around Nehemiah Mission. We are thrilled to be able to bring the YSP passion to our very own Cleveland, OH. Please pray for our group as we safely contribute to our community. Thank you for your continued support of Youth Service Project!

- Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry