



# The Good Word

The Newsletter of Brecksville United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation



Open Doors. Honest Worship. Determined Service.

May 2016 Issue ~ Published April 22, 2016



## FEED THE HUNGRY BROOKSIDE FOOD CENTER

For years, a dedicated team of volunteers from our United Methodist Women have been volunteering at the Brookside Food Center. Each month when they deliver our donations, they also spend the day distributing food and helping at the center. Here are some things they've learned:

▶ The most needed foods are tuna fish, soups, canned fruit, peanut butter, cereal, mayonnaise and jelly. Basic food stuffs are best. Please check your expiration dates.

▶ Non-food items are very hard to come by. Items like toilet paper, soap, tooth paste, dish detergent, diapers, feminine hygiene items, and household cleaners are not covered by Ohio's food assistance programs. **Note:** It's helpful if the rolls of toilet paper are individually wrapped.

▶ Our church is very generous during the holidays, but the need is year round. Our volunteers visit the center on the third Friday of every month! If you can help, bring your donation to the collection bin in the first floor coat room.

Thank you for helping to provide emergency food services to families living in poverty in Cleveland. Put them on your prayer and shopping list today and help the hungry eat tomorrow!



## Confirmation Sunday May 15

Confirmation Sunday, occurring each spring, is a celebration in which eighth grade youth reaffirm their commitment to God and the Church. This is the same commitment that was made at their baptism. Some young people are also baptized during the confirmation ceremony. At the same time, the

parents of the confirmands and the congregation commit to nurturing the young people and raising them up to serve God in love.

The confirmation year is a time of exploration, journey, and embrace of the Christian faith as our own. Our confirmands are challenged to make a commitment to God. It is a challenge that only they can take on. It is a time in which they choose, for themselves, that God's ways are greater than the world's ways. This decision is not an end, but a beginning.

If you have questions about confirmation, if you're interested in participating in confirmation or in becoming a confirmation mentor next year, please contact Courtney Drescher, Director of Youth Ministries, at 440.526-8938 or [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com).



*Year two of our bike ministry kicked off with a church bike wash on April 17. A group of 11 volunteers cleaned about 100 bikes! Our first bike delivery will be May 15. Want to help? Call the church office! 440-526-8938*



8:45 Contemporary Worship

10 Education Hour

Classes for All Ages!

11:15 Traditional Worship

Summer Worship Begins June 5



# Everyday Things

Rev. Clark Stein, Senior Pastor

*“Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.”*

–Frederick Buechner

## Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

Pastor:

Rev. Clark Stein

[pastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:pastor@brecksvilleumc.com)

Associate Pastor, Visitation:

Rev. Barbara Bartholomew

[associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com)

Director of Music & Worship:

Joy E. Parker

[music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com)

Director of Christian Education:

Jenny Gee

[education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

Director of Youth Ministry:

Courtney Drescher

[youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com)

Church Treasurer: Becky Paroda

[finance@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:finance@brecksvilleumc.com)

Office Manager: Melanie Smith

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Assistant Office Manager:

Leslie Miller

[leslie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:leslie@brecksvilleumc.com)

Church School Registrar:

Joan Olszko

Facility Managers:

Jeff and Scott Hastings

[facilities@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:facilities@brecksvilleumc.com)

Published monthly by Brecksville United Methodist Church  
65 Public Square,

Brecksville, OH 44141

Article deadline: 3rd Friday monthly

Editor, Melanie Smith

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

There once was a woman who woke up one morning, looked in the mirror and noticed she only had three hairs on her head.

“Well,” she said, “I think I’ll braid my hair today.” So she did and she had a wonderful day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror and saw that she only had two hairs on her head.

“Hmm,” she said, “I think I’ll part my hair down the middle today.” So she did and she had a grand day.

The next day she woke up. Looked in the mirror and noticed that she had only one hair on her head.

“Well,” she said, “today I’m going to wear my hair in a ponytail.” So she did and she had a fun, fun day.

The next day she woke up, looked in the mirror, and noticed that there wasn’t a single hair on her head.

“YEAH!” she exclaimed, “I don’t have to fix my hair today!”

Attitude is everything.

Keep the faith,

*Pastor Clark*

### Old Stamps = Tools!

The UMW collects cancelled postage stamps (except the Forever stamp and postcard stamps) for National Church Women United. The stamps help “Tools for Hope” an effort to provide tools in developing countries around the world. Bring your stamps to the box in the cloak room. It’s a great way to help!



Our May Coffee Hour hosts will be

*Missions*

Thank you, April hosts  
Church & Society!

# REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT *in Cleveland*



About Alassane Fall

*Alassane is a frequent presenter at international academic conferences on topics such as Africa, international politics, international public law, U.S domestic and foreign policy, European politics, conflict resolution, Islam, the West and the Muslim World, Western Media and Africa, Western and African culture, and cross-cultural communication. He is fully trilingual in Wolof, French and English. He joined ISC as the volunteer/Intern Coordinator and Public Relations Specialist to help develop a viable volunteer program and increase ISC's visibility around Northeast Ohio.*

*He holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the Université Gaston Berger de Saint Louis, Senegal, School of Law and Political Science; a Master's Degree in International Studies from the University of Kansas (KU), Lawrence; and a Certificate of International Humanitarian Law from the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Italy-Switzerland).*

## Sunday, May 22 at 10

Current events in Europe and the Middle East have brought refugees into the worldwide spotlight. But news coverage often falls short of answering the questions that people actually have.

Curious about how refugee resettlement works?

Wondering who refugees are?

Asking what hurdles refugees face?

Come to this very special presentation by Alassane Fall, volunteer coordinator for the International Services Center of Cleveland. Now celebrating their 100th year of service to our refugee and immigrant communities, ISCC is one of the oldest refugee resettlement agencies in the United States.

### Brecksville United Methodist Church

*The big brick church on the square.*

65 Public Square, Brecksville, Ohio

[www.brecksvilleumc.com](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com)

440.526.8938



# YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group – High school students will meet for their final regular Youth Group time on May 1, from 7-9 pm in the Youth Room. Middle school and high school students will not have regular Youth Group meetings throughout the remainder of May. Please check below for information on other fun opportunities throughout the month!

- ▶ May 5 – Confirmation Dress Rehearsal and Teacher/Mentor Appreciation Reception, eighth grade students, 6-7:30 pm
- ▶ May 7 – Plant Sale Pick-Up, YSP participants, 10 am-noon
- ▶ May 8 – GoApe! Adventure Course, high school students, 2-5 pm
- ▶ May 15 – Confirmation Sunday
- ▶ May 15 – All Youth Year-End “Cookout at Courtney’s” (sixth through twelfth grade students) 5-7 pm
- ▶ May 22 – Graduate Recognition Sunday. Farewell reception for Courtney.

Look for more information on each event in the weekly e-mail blasts, in your mailboxes, or in the Sunday bulletin!

Youth Annual Conference (YAC) – All sixth through twelfth grade students are invited to join us for this year’s YAC weekend at Lakeside, June 10-12. This weekend brings together students from all over Ohio for worship, workshops, concerts, and lots of sweet treats! Cost is \$60 per student, and includes all costs for the weekend. RSVP to Courtney by May 15 to reserve your spot – [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) or (440)537-5508.

\*Parents and other adults, are you interested in chaperoning this awesome weekend? Contact Courtney today for more information!

## Farewell Reception for Courtney May 22 at 12:15 in Fellowship Hall



Please join the Staff Parish Relations Committee in celebrating Courtney Drescher’s ministry with a reception after 2nd service on May 22. This will be Courtney’s last day with us. Her wedding is the following weekend and she will be moving to Tennessee with her new husband, Brad, who is a medical student. **Let’s come together and thank Courtney for her commitment and dedication to the Youth of this church!**



Are you graduating from high school, college, graduate or professional school? Graduation Sunday is May 22, and we would like to recognize your accomplishment!

To be included in the Graduation Bulletin, please take a moment to e-mail the church office before May 16.

[office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Or simply complete a short survey:

[goo.gl/forms/V8SERc8J3W](http://goo.gl/forms/V8SERc8J3W)



Save the date for VBS! Surf Shack is for kids pre-school through fifth grade. Camp Serve is for sixth through ninth graders. Learn more about both at [www.brecksvilleumc.com/vbs](http://www.brecksvilleumc.com/vbs)



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Field Trip to the National First Ladies Library. Join the UMW on Thursday, June 2 to tour the library and the Saxton McKinley house for a guided tour in Canton,

Ohio. We'll enjoy lunch at the Bender's Tavern, which is around the corner. The tour will last about 90 minutes and will involve walking. We will carpool from the church at 9 am. Payment of \$6 is needed by May 20 to Elaine Geringer. If you have any questions, call or email Elaine ([degeringer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:degeringer@sbcglobal.net) or 440-526-3710). Everyone is welcome, but to secure your spot your paid reservation is needed *by May 20!*



Spread Some Fun! The UMW is collecting summer items for the children of Ohio Guidestone. Items include balls, bats, frisbees, sidewalk chalk, swim toys, sun screen,

and any fun summer toys. If you can help, bring your donations to the box in the coat room in the first floor before May 15. Thank you for your support of the Guidestone kids.—*Sandy Crist*

#### Church Women United May Events

Contact Nancy Knowlton for details 440-838-4341

5/6 May Friendship Day: "Gathering at God's Table" at the Mediterranean Party Center in Bedford Heights, 9:30 am, \$30.

5/16 Spring Tour of Churches: Departs First Baptist Church Cleveland at 8 am, with lunch. \$35

5/17 CWU Spring Potluck. Speaker Kevin Sehane, Volunteer in Mission, discusses the role of women in Belfast Ireland.

UMW Thursday, May 5. Come hear Lynn Hermensky, Hospice of the Western Reserve on the topic of "Leaving a Legacy for Loved Ones: Matters of the Heart." Creating a photo quilt, scrap book, a shadow box filled with some mementos are some of the ideas to leave for family members. Continental breakfast and fellowship starts at 9:30 followed by the program at 10:00. Everyone is welcome. Plan to join us in the parlor!



Evening Circle, Wednesday, May 4. Meet us in the kitchen at 7 pm as Judy McCrodden and Janine Telischak teach us some tricks and tips to decorate cupcakes and cookies! We will also exchange any perennials that are popping up in our gardens. Need more info? Contact Lyn Hobzek, 440-526-6037.

- **We're doing it again this year!** Start saving your clothing items and shoes for UMW and Easter Seals "Fill the Truck" event this year on August 26 and 27. Your donations benefit Easter Seals and the UMW Mission Fund.
- Thank you to all the bakers and buyers for the successful UMW bake sale. We raised \$405 for our mission fund!
- Calling all pie makers. UMW will be making pies on May 9, 13, 16, and 19 starting at 9 am. Want to help create our world famous pies for Home Days? We would love your help! Contact Mary Kotnik, 330-256-3262.



Did you receive a copy of the 2016 Guide Book & Directory in the mail? If not, it may be time to update your address!

Contact the office: [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com) or 440-526-8938



# GOLF SCRAMBLE and Steak Roast

*A benefit for the Music/Worship Scholarship Fund*

Saturday, June 18, 2016

BRIARWOOD GOLF CLUB

2737 Edgerton Road, Broadview Hts, OH 44147

1 pm Shotgun Start / Arrive by 12:30 pm

\$75.00 Person

\$60.00 Youth 21 and Under

\$25 Dinner Only

Steak Dinner after 18 holes.

Foursomes and Individuals welcome!

*Come enjoy a great day on the links with friends new and old!*

The love of the game and outdoors is only part of the reason to join us, as you'll be golfing to support our church's music scholarship fund! It's sure to be a day of fun. Join us for all or part of it!

*Short of a foursome?*

Contact us and we'll help you find additional team members.

Ric Lesinski [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Register by May 31. Visit: [brecksvilleumc.com/golf](http://brecksvilleumc.com/golf)

Or complete the form below and send to BUMC Music Department, 65 Public Square, Brecksville OH 44141

Call 440-526-8938 with any questions or E-mail [music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com)

## GOLF TEAM REGISTRATION

Name of Golfer 1) \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 or \$60

Name of Golfer 2) \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 or \$60

Name of Golfer 3) \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 or \$60

Name of Golfer 4) \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 or \$60

Dinner Only \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

*Checks Payable to BUMC ~ "Golf Outing" in memo line.* Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\$200 Dinner  
Sponsors

YES, I'll help  
sponsor the meal!  
(4 needed)

\$100 Hole  
Recognitions

YES, I'll sponsor  
a hole! (18 available)



# MILESTONES

News of the Fellowship

Do you have news to share?  
Contact Melanie!  
office@brecksvilleumc.com or  
440-526-8938

Last month, we told you about three baptisms, and on April 24, we baptized another baby boy, Jack Burrows, son of Kate and Ryan. What joy we share!

Long time church member Philip Hines will turn 90 on May 19, 2016. His family invites you to help them celebrate this special day with a birthday card shower. Send your birthday wishes to 4165 Laurel Glen Drive, Broadview Hts, 44147.

“Dear Brecksville UMC: What a great church! I am so happy to be a member. Where do I begin? The flowers from Christmas were enjoyed by many people here at Elmcroft. The shawl from the women’s group, the visits from Pastor Barbara and Ruth McDonel. The list is long. I am not listing all of the people. I have moved to Elmcroft and can no longer walk across the parking lot to church, no longer drive. I am 91 years and 9 months old. Life is really different. Your support and concern are really appreciated.” - Gretchen Knapp



Karen Pace	2	Doug Hurst	12	Ed Gugliucci	21
Shelby Olszko	3	Kathy Stein	12	Connor Mathewson	21
Micah Stein	4	Walt Walburn	12	Emily Miller	21
James Fair	5	Chris Wygonski	12	Nick Bondra	22
Sandie Meyer	5	Michael Paroda	13	Brian Culley	22
Barbara Ramundo	5	Nancy Sirianni	13	Mark Hobzek	22
Suzanne Blatnik	6	Nora Culley	14	Bev Huber	23
Eli Shively	7	Danielle Fisher	14	Nathan Hudacek	23
Stephanie Holmes	8	Wyatt Slifcak	14	Michael Lee	23
Lori Pasek	8	Melanie Smith	15	Taylor Kwiatkowski	24
Eric Chen	9	Jeff Drescher	16	Tom Taylor	24
Jenny Gee	9	Harry Fox	16	Alan Scheufler	25
Scott Hastings	9	Donald Rickert	16	Kathleen Sopka	25
Alison Bell	10	Lauren Sendrey	16	Bob Johns	26
Jack Drescher	10	Lynn Hobzek	17	Alison Rickert	26
Russell Goodwin	10	Sara Meyer	17	Catherine Vastartis	26
Sandy Kovalik	10	Emily Kotnik	18	Greg Diver	27
Nancy Lee	10	Dave Sibits	18	Don Krolikowski	27
Evan Croy	11	Philip Hines	19	Kate Burrows	28
Bobby Hotaling	11	Betty Fielden	20	David Engler	29
Margaret Putka	11	Ava McFarlane	20	Ashley Pacholewski	30
Bill Rittman	11	Kirk Robinson	20	Ava Powlak	30
Joseph Tereshko	11	Ryan Wilson	20	Clark Rechkemmer	31

**ministries**  
OF *Caring*



The Caring Committee is here for you and available to visit those who may be lonely and looking for support or someone to lend an ear. Contact Pastor Barbara, 440-799-3126, to arrange a visit for yourself or a loved one.



As people of faith, we find God’s presence in those who have been blessings to us. At our weekly Staff Meetings this month, we lifted up the following people in prayer, thanking God for them and the way they touch the lives of others. People like Adam Smith (Melanie’s son) who played the guitar and Bob Hudacek who played the trumpet for us on Easter morning. Fran McClean who does such a wonderful job of making visitors feel welcome when she serves as an usher on Sunday mornings and who has been working with Linda Rollins on a project organizing our sheet music. What a big job! And the Louttits who provided a fun baseball themed meal for April’s Youth Dinner. We’re so thankful for each and every one of you!



## Commitments, Transforming Lives

How does it feel? Deep inside? Has God blessed you in new and wonderful ways? When you made your Commitment with your pledge to our Church, you took an extraordinary step. You chose to support something much larger than yourself. You chose to help transform lives!

We all explored last fall how God owns everything (Psalm 24:1), and every bit of it is a gift to you and me. We have the opportunity to use and grow those gifts, as good stewards of the many gifts God has blessed us with. We then have the pure joy of **returning those many gifts to God's glory, by making our Commitments back to the Church.**

Look around you, at what our Church Family, Programs and Staff are doing. Jesus is empowering all of us to spread his great Word. We are working with children, youth, elderly, the hungry, the homeless, our own congregation, and many others. With our Commitments and people, we are transforming lives through Christ... maybe even yours! - *Eternally thankful, your Finance Committee*

# Congratulations

The Music/Worship Board wishes to congratulate our very deserving scholarship winners for this year:



Dan Auble has been active in worship, in music programming, and in a variety of other ways throughout his high school years. Dan has been a regular singer on the Praise Team, a soloist in worship, and has volunteered his time in many other ways when called upon. He is a hard worker and always a willing volunteer.



Megan Rohrer is our first college graduate to receive a Music/Worship scholarship. Megan has served several years on Music/Worship Board, sings in the Chancel Choir, rings handbells, and sings regularly on Praise Team. She has also been a Children's Choir sub for Joy when needed and has volunteered her time at many concerts and events.



Jenna Schroedel has served a three-year term on Music/Worship and can also frequently be found behind the scenes helping to plan and organize music events. Jenna has been a handbell sub, sings with the Chancel Choir on festival Sundays, has made many a Music With a Mission appearance, and regularly sings special music and with the Praise Team.

We couldn't be more proud of these three hard-working, passionate, and musically talented young people. We wish them tremendous success as they move on to the next phases of their lives, and we hope that music and worship will continue to provide a foundation for happiness and growth, regardless of the career paths they each pursue.

Thank you, Dan, Megan & Jenna, for all you have given of yourselves during your years at BUMC!



As flowers and trees begin to blossom, it is time for the Spring Grounds Clean-up at the Church on Saturday, May 14 at 8 am. You are invited! Bring leaf rakes, garden rakes, hoes, shovels, pruners of various sizes, wheel barrels, tarps, gloves, etc. We will be cleaning the beds, weeding as necessary and mulching. As always, trustees appreciate everyone's help to get our grounds ready for summer worship! THANK YOU!



At the time of this printing, we are about half way to our financial goal for this summer's rehabilitation of three homes in Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood. *Thank you!* Curious about the other churches participating? Here's a list!

- Brecksville United Methodist Church
- Buckeye Ministry in Mission Alliance
- Church of St. Dominic
- The Church of the Covenant
- Church of the Gesu
- Church of the Holy Angels
- Church of the Western Reserve
- The Congregation of St. Joseph
- Fairmount Presbyterian Church
- Forest Hill Church
- John Knox Presbyterian Church
- Lakewood Presbyterian Church
- Lakewood United Methodist Church
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church
- Old Stone Church
- Plymouth Church United Church of Christ
- St. Basil the Great
- St. John Neumann Catholic Church
- St. Joseph Catholic Church
- St. Mary of the Falls
- Strongsville United Methodist Church
- The United Methodist Church of Berea
- The United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls



# May 2016



BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.brecksvilleumc.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> Communion  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Coffee &amp; Classes for all ages  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            7 HS Youth Group</p>	<p><b>2</b>            4 G.O.D. Club</p>	<p><b>3</b>            10 Staff Mtg            5 Final            Children's Choir this season            7 Evangelism</p>	<p><b>4</b>            6:30 Dawnbrkrks            7 Eve Circle</p>	<p><b>5</b>            9:30 UMW            6 Confirmation Rehearsal            6:15 Bells            7:30 Choir</p> 	<p><b>6</b>  <i>Church Women United May Friendship Day</i>            5 Friday's @ 5</p>	<p><b>7</b>            12:30 Chen Recital            10-Noon: YSP Plant Sale Pick Up!</p> 
<p><b>8</b> <i>Mother's Day</i>  <i>UMW Sunday</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Coffee &amp; Classes for all ages  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            2 HS Go Ape            Zipline Adventure</p>	<p><b>9</b>            8 UMW Pie Baking</p>	<p><b>10</b>  <i>General Conf. Begins</i>            11 Staff Mtg            12 Lunch Bunch            7 COM            8 COE            8 Music &amp; Worship Board</p>	<p><b>11</b>            6:30 Dawnbrkrks</p>	<p><b>12</b>            9:30 Asbury Bremeth            6:15 Bells            7:30 Choir            8:30 Men's Ensemble</p> 	<p><b>13</b>            8 UMW Pie Baking</p>	<p><b>14</b>  <i>Change the World Weekend</i>            1 YSP Mtg            6 Chapel Service, Chippewa            6 Western Res. Emmaus</p>
<p><b>15</b> <i>Confirmation Sunday</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Coffee &amp; Classes for all ages  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            Youth Cook Out  <i>Deadline for YAC</i></p>	<p><b>16</b>            8 UMW Pie Baking            4 G.O.D. Club            7 SPRC</p>	<p><b>17</b>            10 Staff Mtg            10 Stitch'n'Time            7 Missions            7 Gifts &amp; Memorials            7:30 Trustees</p>	<p><b>18</b>            6:30 Dawnbrkrks            7:30 (am)            BBHHS Jazz Ensemble            Recording in the Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>19</b>            8 UMW Pie Baking            6:15 Bells            7:30 Choir  <i>Last rehearsals for the season!</i></p> 	<p><b>20</b>  <i>Food Delivery to Brookside</i>            Deadline for First Ladies Trip</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> <i>Graduate Recognition, Peace with Justice Sunday</i>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>            10 Coffee &amp; Classes for all ages  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            12:30 Farewell Reception for Courtney Drescher</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>  <i>Aldersgate Day</i>            10 Staff Mtg            7 Finance</p>	<p><b>25</b>            6:30 Dawnbrkrks</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> 	<p><b>27</b>            9:30 UMW Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b>  <b>8:45 Worship</b>  <i>No Education Hour Today</i>  <b>11:15 Worship</b>            YSP Mock Stock Sale Begins</p>	<p><b>30</b>  <i>Memorial Day Church Offices Closed!</i></p>	<p><b>31</b>  <i>Holy Land Trip Departs</i>            10 Staff Mtg</p>		<p><i>May Communion Stewards are</i>            Chuck &amp; Becky Gezze</p>		<p>Begins 6/5</p>

When we join The United Methodist Church, we vow to support it with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But sometimes, our good intentions get lost in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life. As a church, how are we doing with our promises? Can you help fill in the blanks?

# PRAYERS

Consider adding the following to your prayer list this month:

- Nateesha and Chaconia and their families. They are two of the three families who will be moving into the homes we are rehabbing this summer with Habitat for Humanity. Prayers of thanks for those who have donated to the project and prayers of joy for the volunteers who will be working on site!
- Prayers for the Brookside Food Center. The staff and volunteers working there, and for the people who are served by the center.
- Prayers for our church family, that it may continue to **grow in love and act as God's hands and feet** in the community.

Do you know that Brecksville United Methodist Church has an active e-mail Prayer Chain? To be added to the e-mail list, or to submit a prayer request, please contact [Elrowan33@aol.com](mailto:Elrowan33@aol.com).

# PRESENCE

Are you making meaningful worship a priority in your life?

Date	Sunrise Service	First Service	Education Hour	Second Service
Mar 27	42	215	n/a	216
Apr 3	n/a	101	95	74
Apr 10	n/a	122	95	110
Apr 17	n/a	99	72	124

# GIFTS

If you have made a pledge or a contribution, you will receive a giving statement (either electronically or on the other side of this page with your mailed Good Word) which outlines your gifts to date this year. If you need additional information, or if you have not received your statement, please contact the church office.

Date	Offering
Mar 27	8,071
Apr 3	11,186
Apr 10	9,005
Apr 17	6,341

This table outlines the offering received each Sunday since the last publication of the *Good Word*.

# SERVICE

Some ways you can be of service to others this month (look for details in this issue of *The Good Word!*)

- Join our Bike Ministry! We need help cleaning, repairing and delivering bikes to those in need. Contact Jenny Gee for details: 440-526-8938 ext. 230.
- Help the UMW bake their world famous pies this month in preparation for Home Days. Help is also needed working the Home Days booth. Contact Mary Kotnik 330-256-3262 or Ruth Herman 330-467-3237.
- Donate non-perishable food to our ongoing food drive for our neighbors in need in greater Cleveland. A collection bin is located in the first floor coat room.
- Attend the May Council on Ministries Meeting and add your voice! May 10 at 7 pm in the Parlor.

Thank you! Other opportunities are listed on the church website!

*The people of The United Methodist Church are putting our faith in action by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, which is [our church's mission](#). Through the power of our connection, we are making a positive difference in more than 125 countries.*

# United Methodist News

## One Is Too Many; How to Help People Who Are Homeless

Adapted from a UMC.org feature by Tricia Brown\*

While the number of Americans sleeping on the streets or in shelters continues to decrease slowly, the problem isn't going away. And the answer is much more complex than providing a warm bed and a hot meal. How can the church help homeless individuals move towards self-reliance, permanent housing and independent living?

First, do your research. Contact local government agencies, charitable organizations and other churches to get an idea of what kind of help is needed. Fairwood Community United Methodist Church in Renton, Washington, specifically helps women and children through its [REACH Center of Hope](#). Ask lots of questions. Take notes. Gather numbers. The more information you have, the better equipped you will be to make a difference.

Second, determine what is already being done. Know what help is available for people who [can't pay the bills](#). Find out what resources are already available in your community. Collect information about the local, state and national resources (such as [HUD.gov](#) and [HHS.gov](#)), and post it throughout your church. Include numbers and information for food pantries, shelters, medical clinics, welfare agencies, social services, libraries with free computer labs or tax help, etc. The more comprehensive the list, the better equipped you will be to point people in the right direction. Make sure that everyone knows how and where to direct homeless individuals for help.

Third, [question your charitable policies](#). Look closely at what your church is doing or has done in the past. Should any ministries be added — or subtracted? Ask yourself:

- What, if any, needs are being unmet?
- Can the church offer a way to help that is not currently available?
- How can the church help solve the problem at hand?

Often, you will find that someone else is already tackling the problem. If that's the case, consider how members of your church can partner with existing organizations.

Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia [helped people who are homeless](#) by collaborating with the [Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia](#). Together they not only provide temporary housing, but also give student volunteers an opportunity to learn how to advocate for the needs of homeless people.

Fourth, do something. Think creatively about ways that your church can help.

- Pair up with a local shelter to provide extra housing on nights when there aren't enough beds, possibly rotating with other churches or organizations.
- Encourage volunteers to help organizations who build houses for those who are homeless.
- Ask Sunday school classes or other small groups to team up with meal providers in the community.
- Take a cue from Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Stafford, Virginia. Volunteers there sign up for house-keeping duties at a local shelter.
- Donate space to organizations to host alcohol- or drug-abuse support group meetings, [DivorceCare](#), job fairs, ESL classes or career development seminars.
- Sponsor a large pantry-stocking Sunday where congregants bring in canned goods and other food items to help stock community pantries.
- [Maintain a list of professionals within your church](#) who are willing to donate their services to those in need.
- Remember that part of combating homelessness is helping people maintain a home. Recruit volunteers who are willing to mow lawns or help with home repairs.
- Pair volunteers with individuals who need assistance preparing resumes, finding appropriate clothing, applying for jobs and preparing for interviews.
- Provide transportation to help take people to job interviews, medical appointments, shopping trips or searches for housing, or provide public transportation coupons or tokens to help pay their way.
- Provide free pre-paid phones or phone service cards to help homeless individuals stay in contact with potential employers.

Providing assistance to homeless individuals is not about creating an opportunity for church members to feel good about themselves. It's not about putting a Band-Aid on the wound. And it doesn't necessarily mean reinventing the wheel. But one homeless person is one too many. Don't tackle the problem alone. Work together with your community and start making a difference today.

*\*Tricia Brown has been a freelance writer and editor for more than twenty years, ghost-writing and editing for individuals as well as for health, education and religious organizations. She enjoys reading, writing and public speaking commitments in which she teaches and encourages other women.*



[facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC](https://facebook.com/BrecksvilleUMC)



[twitter.com/BrecksvilleUMC](https://twitter.com/BrecksvilleUMC)



[pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc](https://pinterest.com/brecksvilleumc)