

# The Good Word

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



*God is doing a new thing.*

*Flower Photos by Bev Huber*

## Inconvenience? Or Holy Disturbance?

It's been 17 months since our world shut down because of COVID-19. We had the choice to look at this disruption of our lives as an *inconvenience* or a *holy disturbance*. We chose holy disturbance. We recognized that in the midst of all the upheaval, God was doing a new thing. Because our God is in the business of transformation; we are not called to stay the same, but grow with God.

And oh my, have we been growing this past year!

- Since November of 2020, a Vision Team made up of church members, has been working to uncover the core of how God created BUMC to be the church in the world.
- We've said goodbye to two wonderful staff members this year, and welcomed two new staff members: Machala Comenschek and Melissa Hinchman.

- We've embraced a new Sunday morning schedule to help us better meet the needs of our church community.
- We now include online worship, educational opportunities, and meetings in our repertoire so that anyone anywhere can connect with us.

And yet, the essence of Brecksville UMC is the same.

Like the trees that shade us for worship on the lawn, we are the same tree, yet a little different/ bigger/stronger each year. I recognize full-well that on the surface, it seems like everything at Brecksville UMC has changed. However, I encourage you to pause a moment and look: see those familiar faces? See Melanie's new office down the hall? See the children sitting up front for Children's Moment?

Brecksville UMC is a tree that is rooted in worshipping our amazing

God, nourished in groups, and branching out in service to the world. This month's newsletter is filled with introductions of new staff and Melanie's new position on staff, the framework that holds our vision in place, and the plethora of ways we are worshipping, nourishing, and branching.

Take a look and see that God is good *all the time*... even in the midst of this holy disturbance!

*Give thanks to  
the Lord, for the Lord is  
good; God's love endures  
forever.*

Psalm 107:1

*Pastor Heidi*

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

# WORSHIP WITH US

ON THE LAWN SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM  
IN THE SANCTUARY & ONLINE AT 10 AM  
SERMONS BY PHONE 440-526-0653  
WATCH ONLINE ANYTIME - 24/7

## Our Staff

Phone: 440-526-8938

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Help us tell God's story as it unfolds in our church  
and community. Send us your news!

## Whole-Hearted Welcome

*Re-thinking the ways the church office helps connect us to one another and to God*

The work of our church office has changed a lot over the past ten years! With improvements in technology, some things are more efficient. It takes a lot less time to produce this newsletter than it used to, and electronic giving eliminates a lot of administrative work. We have social media accounts and a website people turn to for info. Did you ever think you would learn to worship online? Changes like these, and changes sure to come, have us constantly asking “how do we make the best use of church resources?”

When Leslie Miller retired as Assistant Office Manager last summer, we were in the middle of the pandemic shut down. We were able to delay filling her position for nearly a year, but when office hours resumed it was clear that one person could not do “all the things” - without working six days a week. But did we really need *two* office managers? No. Staff Parish Relations approved dividing the functions of the Office Manager into two positions—Office Manager and Director of Communication & Connection.

After a four month search, Melissa Hinchman has been selected as our new office manager. A lifelong resident of our community, Melissa brings years of experience in business management to the role. Her warm and friendly manner are sure to make everyone who visits the church office feel welcome! Contact her with questions about your giving, to discuss committee meetings and the church calendar, to ask questions about the church, or just to say “hello!” Melissa’s hours are 8 am—2 pm weekdays except Wednesday.



*The Hinchman Family*

Becky Paroda, our Finance Manager of 6 years, has moved her desk into the church office. During the school year, she will be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays keeping track of the church’s financial health, and handling accounts payable for the church. Becky grew up in this church, was baptized and married here—and her kids are growing up here, too!

My title has changed to Director of Communication and Connection and I have moved into Becky’s old office, just two doors down the hall from my old desk. I will continue to produce our weekly bulletins, our weekly and monthly newsletters, manage our website and social media accounts, and produce graphics for worship services. During the pandemic, I also learned new software for our streaming services, how to operate our cameras and direct our live stream on Sunday mornings. The ways that people participate in church are changing, so the new part of my job will focus on the ways we can build connection within our church family and the world—both in person and online. I will continue to work Sunday through Thursday (and hope to eventually find myself on a golf course on Friday afternoons.)

This is all new and will evolve with the needs of the church. If you have any questions, please reach out! Melissa and I are both so excited to be working together, to be working with the ministry team, and to be working with you all to create safe spaces to grow with God and one another! - *Melanie Smith*





## HONEST WORSHIP

### Fall Kick Off Sunday - September 12

**One Worship Service at 10 am!** Join us in the Sanctuary, online or watch the live simulcast in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the start of a new program year! The service will include

- Presentation of Third Grade Bibles
- Presentation of Confirmation Bibles
- Recognition of new members and confirmands received during the pandemic shut down

#### *Joyful Gathering on Brecksville Square following the service!*

- Ride the Euclid Beach Rocket Car
- Enjoy great food from Farmer's Feast
- Delight in a cold treat from Kona Ice
- Get your photo taken for the church family photograph mosaic
- Play lawn games (Have a fun lawn game? Bring it along!)
- Come together in community in the open air

RSVP by Thursday, September 9! [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)



**Are you 8 years old or older?** You can serve as an acolyte! Bring in the Light of Christ as the congregation prepares their hearts for worship at the 10 o'clock service, and leave with the lit candle to challenge everyone to take their own lights out into the world! To learn more, contact Beverly Huber: 216-280-9611 or e-mail [beverly4ruth@yahoo.com](mailto:beverly4ruth@yahoo.com).

### Introducing Machala Comenschek

*Director of Music Ministry*

A Cleveland native, Machala is a vocalist, music director, and teacher who received her bachelor's degree in Music from Cleveland State University. She has performed in many different environments and genres of vocal work, but her focus has been in classical/opera and contemporary sacred music. Machala is a first-year full time teacher this fall, teaching Pre K—8 grade Music at St. Gabriel School in Mentor, Ohio. One day, she plans to pursue a Master's in Music Education or Choral Conducting.



# CHOIR 2021-22

As the fall season begins, we are bringing our singing ensembles back together! Because we're still in the middle of a pandemic, things will be a little different this year.

**First Rehearsal:** Thursday, August 26 from 6:30 to 8 pm— and each Thursday going forward.

#### **First Song we will share:**

September 12 at the 10 am worship service. This is Kick-Off Sunday and there will be just one worship service that day.

**We will typically sing:** during Worship on the Lawn 8:30 am each week

**Pandemic Precautions:** We will be rehearsing outdoors as much as possible, for as long as the weather permits. As long as it's not raining, we will be outdoors until it becomes too cold to stay outside. If for any reason we need to move inside, you would be asked to remain masked while singing.

If you're interested in being part of the choir, or in learning more, please reach out to our new Director of Music Ministry, Machala Comenschek, at [Machala@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Machala@brecksvilleumc.com) or on Sunday morning. Machala says "I am so excited to get started and I look forward to seeing you all and hearing your lovely voices together!"



## A Prayer for the Day

When our eyes do not see the gravity  
of racial justice,  
Shake us from our slumber  
and open our eyes, O Lord.

When out of fear we are  
frozen into inaction,  
Give us a spirit of bravery, O Lord.

When we try our best  
but say the wrong things,  
Give us a spirit of humility, O Lord.

When the chaos of this dies down,  
Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity,  
O Lord.

When it becomes easier  
to point fingers outwards,  
Help us to examine our own hearts,  
O Lord.

God of truth, in your wisdom,  
Enlighten Us.

God of hope in your kindness,  
Heal Us.

Creator of All People,  
in your generosity, Guide Us.

Racism breaks your heart,  
break our hearts for what breaks yours,  
O Lord.

Ever present God,  
you called us to be in relationship with  
one another and promised to dwell  
wherever two or three are gathered.

In our community,  
we are many different people;  
we come from many different places,  
have many different cultures.

Open our hearts that we may be bold  
in finding the riches of inclusion and  
the treasures of diversity among us.  
We pray in faith.

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., cited in  
[JesuitResources.org](http://JesuitResources.org), Prayers for Racial  
Justice and Reconciliation.*



## What Does “Safe Space” Look Like in Youth Ministry?

*A reflection from Dana*

As I looked at planning fall programming, I was struck by how much the world has changed since our young people met in person for youth ministry events in early 2020. With the pandemic, social change, political change, and everything in between, offering a place where youth can show up and find sanctuary is more important now than ever before. But what does “safe space” exactly look like in youth ministry? It looks like growing with God and one another through curiosity and wonder. It looks like making memories and creating genuine communities where students feel supported and loved. It looks like students showing up when they can and feeling comfortable being completely themselves. “Safe space” in youth ministry looks like knowing it’s okay to not be okay and authentically exploring whatever stage in life students might be living through. **To me, “safe space” means love no matter what.** It’s pretty simple. So how will we create “safe space” in youth ministry fall 2021?

We have lots of familiar and new plans for youth programming starting this fall. We are bringing back an old favorite, our **All Youth Dinners**. The first Sunday of the month will bring good food and good friends together for this monthly meal. Students in sixth through twelfth grade are invited to join us for this event. **The first will be held at Pastor Heidi’s house on September 12!** On other Sunday evenings, we will have **Youth Group**, a place for students in sixth grade and above to find community and grow with God. While weather permits, we will be meeting on the brick patio in the front lawn of the church for an hour of games, devotionals, and some surprises. You never know what we will be up to during youth group! Finally, I am so excited that we will be introducing a new youth opportunity this year - **Ecumenical Youth Group!** On the fourth Sunday of each month students from churches of different denominations from all over northeast Ohio will gather together for games, devotional time, and a service project. A special thing about this gathering of youth is that it is intentionally open to all kids — and affirming to LGBTQIA+ students. It will truly be a “safe space” for all! I can’t wait to see what we learn from our new friends and for the connections that we will make as we grow together with God.

***Do you know a student in sixth grade or above who would want to join us for all this fun?*** Email me at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) and we can chat about creating a “safe space” for your student.

Please keep all our students in your thoughts and prayers during this school year as they navigate the complicated world of the pandemic. May they know and find “safe space” wherever they go and feel the love of their church community surrounding them.

*- With Christ’s love, Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry*



## Special Presentation

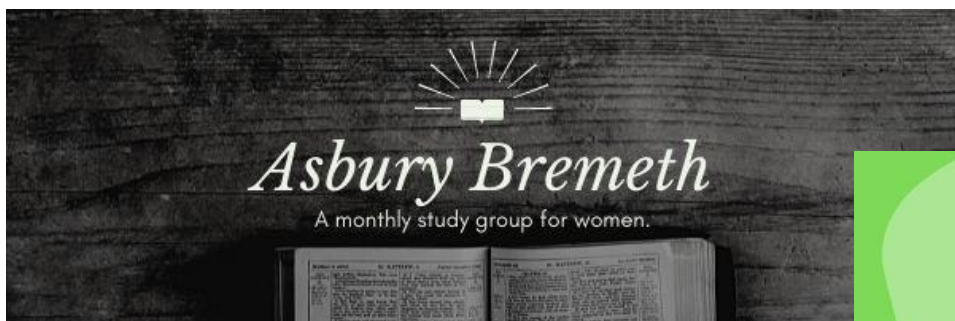
Brecksville UMC member Edward J. Gugliucci, MPH PhD, Public Health Scientist will speak at our first UMW Fall meeting, Wednesday September 8. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm with Ed's presentation at 7 pm.

## EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

Ed is involved with the Court-appointed special advocate (CASA) program. He will cover:

- CASA Agency– the history, location, target population, etc.
- What is a CASA volunteer's function?
- CASA requirements: qualifications and background check.
- Typical case assignment and caseload.
- CASA "SHALL" and "SHALL NOTS"
- Mandated reporters and confidentiality.
- Visitation requirements and updates.
- Court Reports and Volunteer Supervisor.
- Continuing Training Required

This is a combined meeting with the Evening Circle. There will be no business meeting, just announcements. ***Regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month will resume on October 7.***



## Asbury Bremeth Study

Education Director, Jenny Gee, will begin a new study with us in October. All women are invited, so save the second Thursday of each month (during the school year) on your calendar. The next issue of the Good Word will include information about what we are studying. Come share in a time of community and growing with God and learning with one another. Refreshments at 9:30 am. Discussion and learning starts at 10 am.

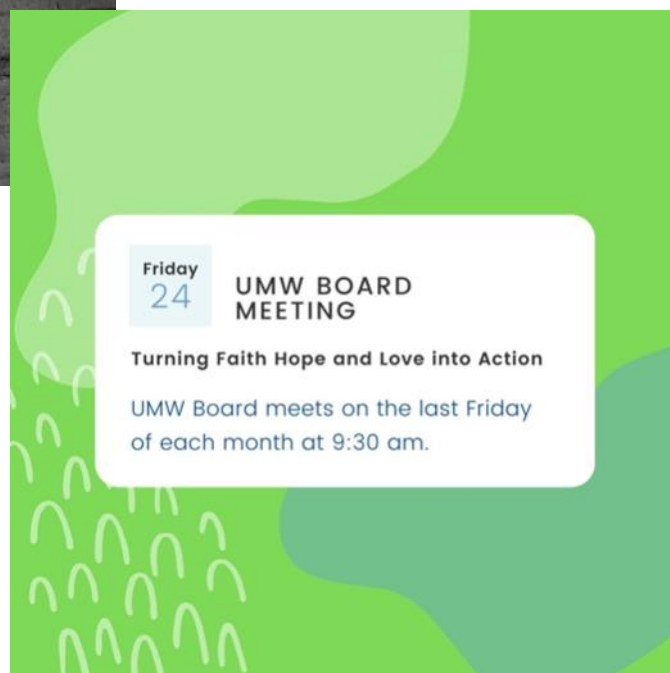


*The ladies of the Evening Circle learned flower arranging in 2015*

## Evening Circle

Have you found yourself wishing that you could be involved with the United Methodist Women, but your daytime schedule wouldn't allow it? Come to evening circle! Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Parlor. Check the church calendar for up to date information. Come join with other women of our church to learn and grow in our faith! Connect with Lynn Hobzke to learn more.

[kezboh@aol.com](mailto:kezboh@aol.com)







## SEPTEMBER

*Show your care with prayer!*

Thank you for setting aside a little time for the Care & Prayer Mail Project. Our list has grown to include people you may see regularly — but that doesn't mean they wouldn't love to find some happy mail in their mailbox, or to know that you're praying for them. What a beautiful gift!

*Week of September 5*

### **Pat Gordon**

10056 Hickory Ridge Dr  
Brecksville, OH 44141-3641

*Week of September 12*

### **Al Hahn**

8400 S Bedford Rd Apt 323  
American Home  
Macedonia, OH 44056-4004

*Week of September 19*

### **Phyllis Phillips**

7005 Stadium Dr Apt 106  
Brecksville, OH 44141-1895

*Week of September 26*

### **Gladys Smith**

7005 Stadium Dr Apt 408  
Brecksville, OH 44141-1887

*Know someone who would appreciate being on the list? Contact the office!*

***Check back next month for a new list!***



Mary Kaminski	1	Tonya Boldt	10	Russ Dieringer	24
Elizabeth Mathewson	1	Mona Carlisle	10	Anne Rosenthal	24
David Hurder	2	Jackie Daugherty	10	Brett Hubert	26
Ann Rittman	3	Travis Papesch	10	Owen Paroda	26
Luke Dorman	4	Matthew Robusto	10	Austin Pribble	26
Marilyn Huber	4	Jinho Lee	11	Jeff Schillo	26
Augie Mihalek	4	Ruth Georgevich	13	Kathy Holmes	27
Tim Miller	4	Jessica Vastartis	13	Annie Madaus	27
Harry Wilson	5	Doug Huth	14	Jeannie McBride	27
Dana Schwendeman	6	Claire Hayes	16	Matt Harper	28
Mariella Siemer	6	Kathy Bartholomew	17	Natalie Iacoboni	28
David Teare	6	Eleri Watkins	17	Mary Jane Matts	28
Matt Georgevich	7	Joshua Stacher	19	Matt Harper	29
Max Mellott	8	Emily Vastartis	19	Amy Magee	29
Quinn Slifcak	8	Becky Gezze	20	Kaiya Crouch	30
Megan Burns	9	Claire Kenney	20	Ella Davis	30
Alvin Hahn	9	Audrey Fowler	21	Craig Kotnik	30
Joe Hurst	9	Les Buttolph	23		
Jennifer Mathewson	9	Gianna Hricko	23		
Ellie Ritterbusch	9	Emma Sak	23		
Sandy Whitton	9				



**MILESTONES**  
*News of the Fellowship*

Congratulations to Bryan Miller, who says "I do!" as this issue of the newsletter goes to print. We wish you a lifetime of happiness, Bryan and Olivia!

We received this message from Loretta Timms, who wanted everyone to know she appreciated your Care & Prayer Mail. "Thank you to everyone who took the time to pray for me during my week of prayer."



At our weekly staff meetings prayers of thanks are lifted to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Erin Gee, who spent much of her summer break from college helping out in the church office. Your cheerful "can do" demeanor was a blessing this summer, Erin! Mitchell Bell, and all of the students who serve as acolytes bringing in the light of Christ for the 10 o'clock service. What a beautiful illustration of God's love. You, and all of the people who participate in each week's worship services—ushers, greeters, liturgists, musicians—are truly gifts!



## COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

### Aging and LGBTQ+

*"It matters not how long we live, but how." Phillip James Bailey*

Aging gracefully is not easy for everyone. It takes faith, strength and health, resiliency, support systems, a caring community in the best of circumstances. My eyes were opened to the difficulties many LGBTQ+ seniors face when I took a course on the topic (Occupationaltherapy.com). I learned about the challenges and issues specific to this community. LGBTQ+ seniors are:

- Twice as likely to live alone
- 3-4 times less likely to have children for support, relying on their "families of choice" (friends) - who are also aging.
- 5 times less likely to seek healthcare/social services out of fear of mistreatment or discrimination.
- Half as likely to have close family for assistance since there may be a contentious relationship with family, if there is one at all.
- Unaware of aging services in the community that could assist them

Think of someone you know that is 65 or older living at home. Picture them needing to downsize to a senior apartment. They choose personal items, meaningful to them to take to their new home. Sadly, many LGBTQ+ seniors are fearful of a new environment that may not be receptive to or affirming of their life experiences or identities. They most likely grew up in an era of discrimination, violence and prejudice that made them fearful to identify themselves to others as LGBTQ+. They may remember that up until 1973, homosexuality was considered a mental disorder. If they have come out openly during their lifetime, when it comes time to move into a facility of some type, they often will go "back into the closet" out of fear of hostility, poor care, or even abuse from staff. If they were married or had a significant other, family may try to prohibit any visits or involvement in their medical care from their partners. If they choose to remain in their homes, finding affirming, open minded care givers can be difficult.

There is some positive news! There are agencies advocating and supporting this population. (See sidebar.)

In closing, I believe this scripture summarizes where our hearts and hands should be:

"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone." - Psalm 71:9.

- Submitted by Deanne Kloss, Inclusion Task Force

#### Other Resources & References :

- LGBT Elder Hotline 1.888.234. SAGE M-F 4pm - midnight, Sat 12-5 SAGEusa.org
- Occupationaltherapy.com: Supporting the LGBTQ Senior in Healthcare, Kathleen Weissberg, OTD, OTR/L.

**SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders)** is the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of older LGBTQ+. They, in coordination with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, initiated the Long-Term Care Equality Index (LEI) an assessment tool to encourage and educate long term care facilities to be more responsive and supportive of this population. SAGECare provides education on the unique needs of LGBTQ+ seniors with staff training & consulting and audits of company policies & procedures.

*Local SAGE Affiliate - LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland :  
6600 Detroit Ave  
Cleveland 216.651.5428  
or 216.273.6651 /Contact : Mary Beth Bartholomew*

**The American Society on Aging** advocates at the federal/state/local levels and educates policy makers about aging issues related to LGBTQ+.

*American Society on Aging/SAGE Hotline :1. 877.360.LGBT (24 hrs / 7 days wk ) Asaging.org>lgbtq-aging*

**The National Resource Center on LGBT Aging**, a project of SAGEusa.org, is a kind of "1 stop shop" for resources, training, education and advocacy tools .

*National Resource Center on LGBT Aging - affiliated with SAGEusa  
LGBT Aging Issues Network (LAIN)*

There are many more examples online. These are just a few positive examples supporting this community .



### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION explore your relationship with GOD

Have you ever considered Spiritual Direction for yourself? As we move into this new season of the church year, you may be interested in exploring a prayerful space to explore your relationship with God. Meeting monthly, you will learn more about how to reflect on your day-to-day life experiences and notice how God is moving in your life. Spiritual Direction also offers a safe space to be real about the hard questions of faith. This is an opportunity to be a little vulnerable with God while you grow in your awareness of God's presence in your everyday life. Spiritual Direction is not therapy or life coaching, but it is an opportunity to become more open to the Spirit's guidance and transformation. Want to learn more? Contact Jenny at [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com)

## Sunday School for All Ages

It's been a wonderful summer where many enjoyed the opportunity to get out and do a little more than we were able last year. As much as we look forward to summertime, there is something that just feels right as fall approaches. We watch our children climb onto the school bus, a year older and ready to take on the challenges of a new year. We like and love all the photos of newly decorated dorm rooms that come across our Facebook feed amazed that these little people aren't so little anymore. And we look forward to the soft flannel shirts we get to start wearing and the tasty pumpkin and apple dishes that are going to be bubbling in our ovens soon. The end of summer also hails the start of a new Sunday school year with the excitement of seeing our church friends again and journeying together to grow closer to God. Make plans and make a commitment to be involved in a Sunday school class or a Sunday morning small group. It will fill you up and get you ready for the week ahead.

***Classes and small groups begin September 19 for ages 3 to 133. Watch your bulletin, Facebook and weekly email blast for details!***

## Bible Sunday is September 12



*Third graders receive their Bibles in 2019*

**Bible Sunday** is a very special tradition within the United Methodist Church. Do you remember receiving your first Bible? We would love to hear the story of that special day. Our Third Graders and Seventh & Eighth Graders will receive Bibles as a gift from their church family on Sunday, September 12 at the 10 am service.

- Third grader parents and grandparents, reach out to Jenny at [education@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:education@brecksvilleumc.com) to reserve a Bible.
- Seventh and Eighth Grade parents and grandparents reach out to Dana at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com).

We are so excited to present this gift from the church to your kids and we hope that it helps them on their journey to know Jesus better.





Mark your calendar for our next Bike-Fix-It Day Saturday, September 18 from 9 am until noon in Fellowship Hall. You do not need to have any expertise in bike mechanics. There are many ways your hand can be helpful in getting bikes out onto the streets and into the hands of children and adults who cannot afford them. Be a part of this fun and meaningful ministry.

One Saturday in August, about twenty volunteers were able to complete nearly 50 bikes for delivery! Jenny and Aleya loaded them up and took them out into the world a few days later. **Can we do it again this month?**

Contact Jenny Gee to learn more: [jenny@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:jenny@brecksvilleumc.com)



**One way that we create safe space to grow with God and one another is by *bearing God's fruit in service.***

- Am I giving back to God?
- Am I sharing God's blessings with others?
- Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?



**DETERMINED SERVICE**

— **bumc** —  
**MISSIONS & OUTREACH**  
 UPDATE

### **School Supply Drive Completed**

Thank you for the wonderful outpouring of school supplies! As usual you were amazing. With your generous donations and some additional funds from M&O, our church was able to prepare 100 students for school this year with the following supplies: 400 folders, 200 packages of paper, 200 notebooks, 100 composition notebooks, 1000 pencils, 600 pens, 100 pencil sharpeners, 100 boxes of crayons, 65 Binders, 100 Name tags for their backpacks, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, erasers, markers.

### **Next Up—Hygiene Kit Drive**

Our challenge – 250 kits to be handed out at the MedWorks Vision Clinic at the Cole Eye Institute in October. MedWorks is a Cleveland area organization providing healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured. (Learn more about them at [medworksusa.org](http://medworksusa.org).) This October event will be their first in person event since the pandemic shutdown, and we will support it by collecting items for and assembling hygiene kits for participants. You can help by donating items for the kits and by helping to assemble the kits. Here's what we need for the kits:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Gallon sized re-sealable bags                    | • Shampoo (15—18 ounce)   |
| • Bars of soap (3 or 4 ounce)                      | • Deodorant and/or antiperspirant - roll on, stick or pump (2-3 ounce size) |
| • Adult Toothbrushes – individual factory packaged | • Toothpaste (4—8 ounce size)   |
| • Bath Washcloth                                   | • Disposable razors   |
| • Bath Hand Towel                                  |   |

***These items will be due by Sunday, September 19.*** To help insure that we will have the correct number of each item, we will have pull-tags available to claim at church and a link to an Amazon shopping list where you can purchase items. If you would like to make a financial donation, please mark your gift “Hygiene Kits” or choose “Missions” as the fund for online gift, with “Hygiene Kits” in the memo field.

### **Sunday, October 3—Between Services**

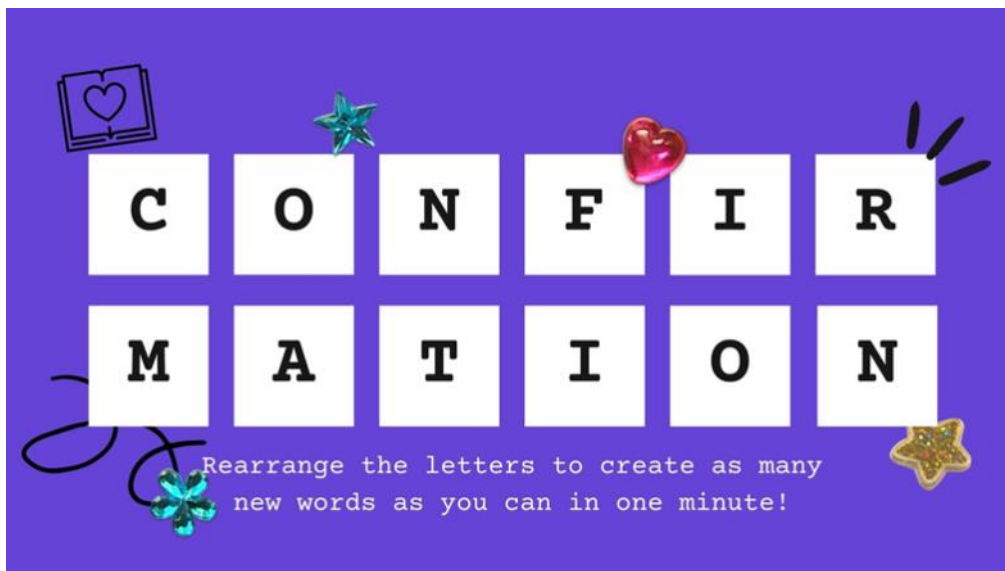
***Fellowship, fun and service opportunity for all***

We will have two options for you: Assemble the hygiene kits or make bird feed suet cakes to donate to area places. Yes, we are making suet cakes – that should be fun, especially for the kiddos!

### **Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, Saturday Sept. 25**

Open to anyone, age 16 and up, regardless of ability. If you are interested, please call the office to register. 440-526-8938 or [office@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:office@brecksvilleumc.com)

Thank you for your continued support. You have touched many lives in the Cleveland area. - Blessings, Missions & Outreach



## Confirmation is back!

We are so excited to be welcoming back our Confirmation program this fall. It is such an exciting and important part of a young person's faith journey. This year, we are introducing a new format for Confirmation, extending it to be a two-year cycle for our seventh and eighth graders. This means that students will begin the process of Confirmation in the fall of their 7th grade year and be confirmed in the spring of their 8th grade year.

### *What does Confirmation look like for those two years?*

Confirmation is an opportunity offered to students in 7th grade and above, to have a personal exploration of what it means to be a Christian, and more specifically, a United Methodist. They are invited to learn about scripture, church history, prayer, spiritual development, theology, mission, and the structural connections of the United Methodist Church. This learning takes place during our Sunday morning education hour, in time spent with their mentors, during worship, on retreat, and in many other avenues throughout the year.

The culmination of the confirmation journey ends with students deciding to claim their faith as their own and become full members of the United Methodist Church. Confirmation is a continuation of baptismal vows that parents make for their children, where students can now say for themselves, "yes, I want to follow Jesus and I choose to be a United Methodist."

We could not be more thrilled to be creating a safe space for students to grow with God and one another through the process of Confirmation. Our hope at Brecksville United Methodist Church is that Confirmation can be a place for students to ask questions, follow their curiosity, and find a place in the world where they feel they can be themselves. Confirmation "kicks-off" September 12th during our 10 am service where students will receive a special Confirmation bible and be prayed over by the congregation.

*Do you know a 7th grader or above who might be interested in joining our Confirmation class this year?* Reach out to Dana, our director of Youth Ministry, at [youth@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:youth@brecksvilleumc.com) for more information.

## 2022 Guide Book & Directory Advertising Opportunity

Our annual Guide Book & Directory contains information about our ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events - plus a complete directory of all members.

This book is provided and direct-mailed to each family in our database at no cost to our church, because of the generous support of the local businesses who advertise.

If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the Church Office.

### Have you moved?

### Updated your phone or email address?

### Contact the Church Office!

### Want to be sure you're included in the directory and that you are mailed a copy?

### Prefer to keep your contact information private?






### Contact the Church Office!

Melissa Hinchman  
Office Manager  
440-526-8938

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



# SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Recovery Groups at Brecksville UMC</b> Monday—Al-Anon, 10 am Tuesday—AA Ladies 10 am & NA 7:30 pm Wednesday—AA at 7 pm Thursday—AA Ladies at 8 pm Friday—AA Ladies at 10 am, AA at 8 pm Sunday—NA at 7 pm			1 Church Council Reports Due Today 6:45 Breakfast	2  Mowing— Lundholm	3	4  Bread Ministry—
5 <b>8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; Online</b>	6 10:30 Lectio Divina 9 Enneagram Small Group <b>Labor Day, Church Office Closed</b>	7 10 Staff Mtg 7 Church Council 7 Lectio Divina	8 Horizons Preschool Resumes 6:45 Breakfast 6:30 Combined UMW Meeting	9  8 SPRC Consult with DS—online Mowing— Auble/Spencer	10	11  Bread Ministry— Petkovsek
12 Fall Kick Off <b>10 One Service today! Bibles for 3rd grade &amp; Confirmation 11 Party!</b> 5 pm All Youth Dinner	13 10:30 Lectio Divina 6:30 Community Chorus	14 10 Staff Mtg 7 Inclusion Task Force 7 Lectio Divina	15 6:45 Breakfast	16  Good Word Deadline  Mowing— Brown/Sendrey	17	18 Bread Ministry— Hobzek  10 Bike Fix It Day
19 <b>8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; Online</b> 5 pm Youth Group	20 10:30 Lectio Divina 6:30 Community Chorus	21 10 Staff Mtg 10 Stitch'n'Time 7 Lectio Divina 7 Trustees	22 6:45 Breakfast	23  Mowing— Campbell/Bloch	24 9:30 UMW Board Meeting  7 Robinson/ Smiley Wedding Rehearsal	25 Bread Ministry— Millers 4:30 Robinson/ Smiley Wedding
26 <b>8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship in the Sanctuary &amp; Online</b> 2:30 Memorial for Michael Long 4:30 Ecumenical Youth Group	27 10:30 Lectio Divina 6:30 Community Chorus	28 10 Staff Mtg 1 Advent Planning Mtg 7 Finance 7 Lectio Divina	29 6:45 Breakfast	30  In July, we recycled 7,920 pounds of paper at Brecksville UMC! If it's paper, bring it to the bin!	<b>Church Office Now open weekdays</b> 8 am—2 pm  440-526-8938 office@brecksvilleumc.com	



## Church Office Hours

Monday — Friday

8 am — 2 pm

440-526-8938

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

# **BECOME A GATEKEEPER!**

## **LEARN 3 SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP SAVE A LIFE FROM SUICIDE**

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*LifeAct has proudly partnered with the QPR Institute to offer  
FREE, virtual Gatekeeper Training.*



### **QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER.**

QPR Gatekeeper training is an emergency mental health intervention for people experiencing a mental health crisis. Just as people trained in CPR help to save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

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### **SCHEDULE YOUR FREE, VIRTUAL TRAINING TODAY!**

#### **FREE ONLINE QPR Gatekeeper Training**

**Wednesday, September 8th from 7-8pm**

How to register: email [scheduleprogram@lifeact.org](mailto:scheduleprogram@lifeact.org) with your name, email address and how you heard about us. If you are registering more than one person, please also include their full name and email address as well. We will send a confirmation of your registration and a reminder with the Zoom link the week before the training, as well as the day before!

#### **REGISTER TODAY!**

EMAIL: [SCHEDULEPROGRAM@LIFEACT.ORG](mailto:SCHEDULEPROGRAM@LIFEACT.ORG)

#### **QUESTIONS?**

CALL LIFEACT AT 216.464.3471

QPR Gatekeeper training is offered to adults 18 years or older and is free of charge.  
Training dates: Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, and May 10







# BRECKSVILLE

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SINCE 1814

### MISSION

Creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO.

**VALUES** – GUIDE OUR ACTIVITIES AND REVEAL THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF BUMC

#### Honest Worship

We invite everyone to participate in worship authentically and holistically; heart, mind, soul and body.

#### Joyful Gathering

We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share in the life God offers us.

#### Lifelong Learning

We are unabashedly authentic in our lifelong quest to grow with God and learn with one another.

#### Courageous Inclusion

We whole-heartedly welcome all people to come as their perfectly imperfect selves.

#### Determined Service

We show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person.

### MEASURES

I will create safe space to grow with God and one another by...

THESE QUESTIONS HELP US KNOW HOW WELL WE'RE DOING.  
ARE WE LIVING OUR VALUES?

... sowing love and compassion.

- Am I seeing myself and others through God's eyes?
- Am I seeking and giving forgiveness?
- Am I recognizing the presence of God's kingdom around me?

... cultivating sanctuary.

- Am I listening for the voice of the marginalized?
- Am I nurturing someone else's healing?
- Am I accepting of those different than me?

... tending to life-long learning.

- Am I engaged in exploring my faith with others?
- Am I actively seeking to grow my personal relationship with God?
- Am I reflecting my spiritual growth in my daily life?

... bearing God's fruit in service.

- Am I giving back to God?
- Am I sharing God's blessings with others?
- Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?

OUR MOST DEEPLY HELD IDEALS



REACH OUT TO PASTOR HEIDI OR THE VISION TEAM TO LEARN MORE!

HOW MINISTRY FITS TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE MISSION. THE BASICS OF HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

### STRATEGY

Rooted in worship.  
Nourished in groups.  
Branching out in service.

