

THE GOOD WORD

a monthly newsletter

Issue 7, Volume 13



Vacation Bible School is one of my very favorite weeks all year.

Each morning, I head over to the Brecksville Reservation, to the pavilion where we all gather, and I support Jenny, the teachers, and the kids in whatever way is needed that day. This year, we have 107 kids and 55 volunteers learning how they can be change makers in the world for Jesus. And it is an experience to behold!

Each day, the volunteers are on the lookout for ways the

kids are being kind to one another, handing out kindness balls that go in a gigantic, 7-foot tube, hopefully overflowing with kindness by the end of the week.

Machala leads everyone in music, teaching us all the motions to songs that will be stuck in our head all year.

Crew Leaders guide groups of kids from station to station—science, games, story, and craft—learning about the day's scripture in different ways; pausing for a snack to refuel everyone's hungry bellies.

Continues on next page...

Connect with us!

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...continued from front page

Before the kids go home each day, we count up the coins and dollars they've brought in for this year's mission: to purchase a goat, pig, and sheep for a family through *Heifer International*. It's all just... wonderful.

But my favorite part is witnessing all the little moments sprinkled throughout the week. Because my job is "support person," I get to stand back and watch our volunteers live out God's love in all kinds of small, yet beautiful ways...

Cathy sitting "crisscross applesauce" on a blanket, intently looking at whatever little treasure a preschooler excitedly shows her. Jim hugging and whispering words of encouragement to a young boy who *did not* want his mom to leave. 12 elementary-age kids attentively listening to Julie's every word as she reenacts the day's Bible story. Michelle teaching the kids how to get just the right amount of paint on their paintbrush so their birdhouses turn out as beautiful as can be. Heidi (not me!) telling her group (the Giant Octopi) octopus jokes she Googled the night before. Marla hopping and skipping with her group from one station to the next, in an attempt to keep them from running ahead or lagging behind. These are just a few of the countless precious moments I've witnessed throughout the past few days.

Each small, yet meaningful interaction is an instance where the volunteer uses their natural, God-given gifts to show the kids that they matter—to them and to God. Each moment communicates God's unconditional love in ways the kids can understand, so that it can be carried with the child throughout the rest of their life.

And these moments of care and connection are what make Brecksville United Methodist Church.

The calls and cards to people who are unwell. The hugs of greeting after a long time apart (even if it's only been a week!). The meal train quickly put together for someone in need of a little extra support. A hand on someone's shoulder, reminding them they're not alone in whatever it is they're going through.

Without these moments, we would just be a bunch of people that gather in the same place once a week. But with these moments, we are transformed into the Body of Christ.

This newsletter, for August and September, is filled with opportunities for connection—birthdays and anniversaries, save-the-dates and reminders. At the end of August (when you would normally get the September newsletter) you'll receive a Fall Program Guide, which will include all the ways we are growing and serving together this fall.

Our prayer is that by sharing the opportunities for connection and growth in this way, we can help you intentionally choose the ways you'll engage with Brecksville UMC and its beautiful people in the months to come.

I'm so grateful to be loving and serving alongside you!

Pastor Heidi

What Is God Like?

“That’s a very big question, one that people from places all around the world have wondered about since the beginning of time. And while nobody has seen all of God (because God is far too big for any of us to fully see), we can know what God is like.”



This is the opening page of the children’s book, *What Is God Like?* By Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner.

This book is the inspiration for our August worship series, *What Is God Like?* We will be challenged to think about how we’ve come to understand God, and search scripture for descriptions of God’s likeness. There are copies of this beautiful book in the Parlor for you to borrow, or you can purchase one for your family or loved ones as a gift!

Worship Series begins Sunday, July 30 and continues through September 3.



WORSHIP
IN THE WOODS

August 11

Join us August 11 at 7 pm at the Meadows Picnic Area for our last Worship in the Woods of the season. We will gather at the shelter, take a short easy hike (although there are staircases both up and down), settle in for a short time of worship with song, prayers and a reflection on something amazing in God’s beautifully created world. After our worship time we will return to the Meadows to roast marshmallows and make s’mores!

Want to receive weather updates and changes?
Sign up at BUMCLinks.com

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sing! Sing! Sing!

Join the chancel choir! Rehearsals resume Thursday, August 24. We meet each Thursday from 6:30—8:30 pm to prepare the anthems we share with the congregation on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 worship service. All voices are needed and no music reading skills are necessary. Want to learn more? Reach out to Machala at music@brecksvilleumc.com

“We’re Getting The Band Back Together!”

Do you enjoy singing? Have a secret skill as a guitarist or a drummer? What other instrument could *you* add to the worship band? Come play with us—be it occasionally or every Sunday! Reach out to Machala or Jamie for more information.

email Music@brecksvilleumc.com


**Church
Conference**
Sunday, August 20
9:40 to 10:20
in Fellowship Hall

Church Conference—Sunday, August 20

Considering a resolution on The Simplified Accountability Structure

All members Brecksville UMC are invited to vote on a proposed resolution (included as an insert in this newsletter) to adopt a new leadership model—the Simplified Accountability Structure (SAS). The meeting will take place from 9:40—10:20 am in Fellowship Hall. Have questions about SAS? Reach out to Pastor Heidi or a member of the Task Force: Kristi Eberhardt, Sue Hastings, Mike Kubek, Ric Lesinski, Eric Louttit or Janine Telischak. Not sure if you’re a member of BUMC? A membership list and information about SAS are available in the Parlor and on BUMCLinks.com.

Classes for all ages resume Sunday, September 17. Look for details in the Fall Program Guide, publishing August 24.

Backpack Blessing

Teachers will soon begin preparing their classrooms, families will start their back to school shopping and on Monday, August 21, kids will return to school in Brecksville-Broadview Heights. Let's send them off with prayer for a safe and successful year of learning!

Students and Teachers are encouraged to bring their backpacks and book bags to church for a blessing on Sunday, August 20

We will also give you a token as a reminder that God is with you in your daily life and that your church family is praying for you throughout the year!

Lectio Divina

A slow, meditative reading and praying of a Scripture passage. Join Jenny Gee and friends in the Chapel.

Monday morning (10:30 am)
Lectio Divina continues throughout the summer - with the exception of July 31 and August 7.

Tuesday evening (7 pm)
Lectio is on break until August 22. Plan to join us then!



Third Grade Bible Sunday

In the baptismal covenant, we are asked "Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include these people now before you in your care?" We respond, "With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround these persons with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life." One way we honor this commitment is with the tradition of presenting Bibles to our third grade students. It's a rite of passage, a gift of love and nurture from the congregation. It is our prayer that this gift will be a starting point for each of our third graders to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus through the study of God's word.



Ellie & Angie with their Bibles

Third Grade Bible Sunday is September 17 at the 10:30 Worship Service. If you have a child going in to Third Grade, please reach out to Jenny Gee, 440-526-8938 ext 230 or by emailing Jenny@Brecksvilleumc.com. Do you have a memory about your first Bible? Did you receive a Bible at Third Grade Bible Sunday? Share your story with Jenny!

Prayer Partner Program

Do you pray? Do you want to grow as a follower of Jesus Christ? Do you want to have someone you can trust and with whom you can share? Consider signing up for the **Pilot Prayer Partner Project** through the United Methodist Church! You can register as an individual or as a group (United Women in Faith, a Bible study group, a craft team, etc.) Pick a prayer partner (a friend, co-worker, family member, or neighbor within or outside of the church) and decide how often you will pray for one another and how often you will communicate. Go to BUMCLinks.com to pre-register for the **Pilot Prayer Partner Project** and learn more as soon as it becomes available. The project launches in September 2023, but you and your partner can start any time. A first instructional email will be sent out at the end of August. Beginning in September, you will get a biweekly Prayer Toolbox email with prayer partner questions/activities, and resources such as books, and complimentary webinars on prayer by The Upper Room staff.



FALL KICK OFF



SUNDAY
SEPT. 10



START AT
11:30 AM



BUMC
65 PUBLIC SQUARE

Plans are underway for our annual Joyful Gathering with music, food, games, a bounce house and opportunities to branch out in mission! Suggested donation \$10 a person helps cover the cost of food and activities. More details to come!

RSVP at BUMCLinks.com or call 440-526-8938



Thank you, ReachOut Campers!

ReachOut Camp blessed our church with seven phenomenal young people who spent two days here - offering themselves and their skills to be God's hands and feet in the world. The campers set off with Matt and Kathy Auble to *Trials for Hope* and worked all day to organize donated toys. With their help, these toys will be able to be more easily distributed to kids for Christmas. Afterwards, Matt and Kathy generously invited the campers into their home and grilled a delicious meal. The kids spent hours eating, chatting and roasting s'mores at the Aubles', then slept at our church and woke bright and early ready to serve again. Here, they organized and repaired our fixable bikes and harvested good parts from others. We now have bikes lined up and ready to be delivered to our partners at the Refugee Response and David's Challenge. Special thanks to the Aubles and to Jim Lee who spent the day mentoring while we repaired bikes.—*Submitted by Jenny Gee*

Update from the Board of Trustees

Trustees have been busy working on a number of projects at the Church, on the grounds and at the parsonage. You may have noticed the cement work recently completed, this is in advance of new back doors. The West door by the elevator will have a new fully ADA compliant door. Gifts and Memorials and a small grant helped fund this project. These new doors will be installed in mid-August. By early September we should have the automatic door opener operational. Our building was built in 1954 and the Sanctuary and Fellowship hall added about 1964. That is 69 and 59 years ago. This building has served the Church and community well in those years, and we know it will well into the future. With age some things can need attention, like the roof and parking lot. We are considering what to do with these major projects and you will hear more about this in the future. Smaller projects keep us busy as we work to be good stewards of this wonderful building, using our budget and planned expense funds. Take a look around! Trustees welcomes comments and suggestions regarding our beautiful Church building.—*Submitted by Bob Lundholm, Chair, Board of Trustees*



United
Women
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood



**Executive
Director of
Womankind
to speak at
September
Meeting**

Mary Ann Meitin, Executive Director of Womankind will share about the work of her organization. Eve Circle and UWF invite you to this special event Wednesday, September 6, at 7 p.m.

United Women in Faith

No meetings in August

Set these dates aside:

- Thursday, October 5, at 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, November 2, at 9:30 a.m.
- Christmas Potluck—
Thursday, December 7, at noon.

Asbury Bremeth

Our Christian Study group meets on the second Thursday of most months. The first meeting is Thursday, September 14 at 9:30 am. Learn about the topic of this year's study in the Fall Program Guide, publishing next month.

You are welcome to come! *All meetings are in the church parlor on the second floor.*

Eve Circle Donation Drive for Mothers and Babies

About the time that Marissa, then a training coordinator with a national restaurant chain, learned she was pregnant, she also learned her insurance had been canceled. When her application for Medicaid was denied she did not know where to turn. A co-worker recommended she reach out to Womankind, a 50 year old pregnancy and maternal care clinic in Warrensville Heights whose mission is to provide hope, help and possibility to any pregnant woman, regardless of her circumstances.

"Knowing that Womankind could provide my prenatal care and assist with Medicaid was a huge stress relief. It was such a big help," she said. As her pregnancy progressed, Marissa came to enjoy her visits to Womankind's Monday evening clinics, where she did not feel like a charity case.

Chemarra Bryant, Womankind's Director of Counseling and Support Services, helped her cope with the stress of not having insurance and worked with her to get Medicaid approval.

"The outpouring of love from everyone at Womankind made me feel comfortable so I could simply focus on having a healthy baby," she said. Baby girl Everly entered this world weighing 5 pounds and 6 ounces, beautiful and healthy. Marissa says she makes sure she tells everyone she knows about Womankind. She exclaimed, "They were the best thing I never knew about. Without Womankind, I probably would have lost my sanity. They were a lifesaver!"

Since 1975, Womankind has been providing free prenatal care and a full range of support services to pregnant women and families with medical, financial and emotional needs. After nearly 50 years, Womankind still offers all confidential and compassionate services – with a non-judgmental approach - at no cost to the clients with no eligibility requirements, regardless of their circumstances.

For the month of August, our Eve Circle & Missions Committee are organizing a collection for Womankind. If you are moved to help, the most needed items are:

- Baby Boy and Girl Clothing – Up to 24 months/2T
- Diapers – Premie, Newborn and Sizes 4-7
- Wipes
- Baby Lotion, Baby Shampoo and Baby Wash
- Baby Formulas: Enfamil Infant or Gentlease, Similac
- Baby Socks
- Receiving Blankets
- Gift Cards – Esp. Giant Eagle, Amazon, Walmart, or Visa

Bring items to the first floor donation bin by Sunday, August 27.



Listening with Intention—a Congregational Survey



What does our community need us to be? How will our community be better because our church is here? How will the church be better because we are involved in the community? What talents, interests and passions to serve exist within our congregation? These are some of the big questions the Missions & Community

Engagement Committee are asking—and we need your help discerning the answers. *Could you set aside a few minutes to share your thoughts with us in a short survey?* [Find it at BUMCLinks.com](http://BUMCLinks.com). The survey will be open through August 9. If you would prefer a paper copy, pick up a copy at church or request a mailed copy by calling 440-526-8938 or emailing info@brecksvilleumc.com. *On August 15, we'll launch a second survey for members of our community. Information about ways to share that survey coming soon!*

Using Creativity and Talents for Missions

A group of creative mission minded people are gathering to learn, wonder and begin to dream about how folks at BUMC could use their creative talents for missions. There are knitters, jewelry makers, quilters, sewers, and crocheters in the group. At our first meeting, we learned from people from Church of the Savior UMC and North Canton Faith UMC about various sewing projects: for [Midwest Mission](#), senior living centers, babies, cancer patients, prayer shawls, school bags, female dignity and hygiene kits, [Days for Girls](#), cloth grocery bags and more. Inspired and curious, the group is organizing a field trip to North Canton Faith on Tuesday, August 1 to learn to make Walker Bags. Our next organizational meeting at BUMC will be Monday, August 21 at 7 pm. You are invited to join us for either or both of these events! Interested in learning how you might be involved? Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or in the Parlor on Sunday!

Trike & Bike Brecksville Broadview Heights 2023

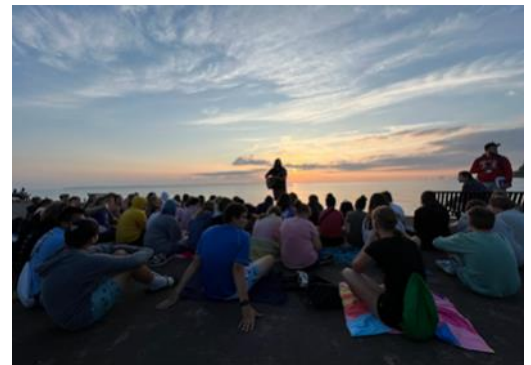
Trike & Bike benefiting VeloSano is a series of community-organized bike rides for children throughout Northeast Ohio. The program provides a unique opportunity for children and their families to have fun and stay active while supporting a great cause – as 100% of every dollar that participants raise supports pediatric cancer research at Cleveland Clinic Children's.

Brecksville Broadview Heights Trike & Bike is Saturday, August 12 from 9:30-11:30. Our church is supporting the event and we will have a table there, handing out tire pressure gauges for parents and back-to-school pencil bags for kids. You can support this effort by [donating money](#), by volunteering to be at the table, or by surrounding the event in prayer. (Or all three!) Learn more and sign up at BUMCLinks.com or in the Parlor.



Donation Drives

Our August Donation Drive for Womankind is detailed on the UWF page opposite of this one. In September, we'll be collecting for Nehemiah Mission. The most needed items for this UMC City Mission will be shared in the Sunday Bulletin, Thursday e-news and social media!



A special thank you to everyone who helped us complete our ReachOut Amazon wish list! Your generous donations made this one of our best ReachOut camps to date. Your prayers, notes, and blessings with the items meant so much to our campers and staff. Thank you for supporting East Ohio Camps and United Methodist youth! - Dana Schwendeman, Dir. Of Youth Ministry



Bike Fix It Days Return in September! We get together one Saturday each month to refresh and repair donated bikes.

Want to help?

Email bikes@brecksvilleumc.com to learn more!

1 Daniel Jaszczak
 1 Tish Kwiatkowski
 2 Susan Hurst
 2 Katrina Orr
 2 Nick Orr
 3 Chris Davis
 3 Bennett Eberhardt
 3 Jeff Hastings
 3 Gabriel Vastartis
 3 Steven Vastartis
 3 J.T. Zawada
 4 Kristi Eberhardt
 4 Joan Filips
 4 Judy Novak
 5 George Smith, Jr.
 5 Karen Walburn
 6 Sam Burrows
 6 Lily Jatsek
 6 Frank Pasek
 7 Brooke Barnum
 7 Sally Crist
 7 Mary Jane Opatrny
 8 Jeffrey Mihalich
 8 Dave Stoffer
 9 Betty Monnin
 10 Valorie Bender
 10 Nora Cooper
 10 Jack Hehr
 10 Allison Hurley
 10 Grace Santora
 10 Ryan Shijo
 11 Beth Dadas
 11 Heather Manocchio
 11 Lori Rusterholtz
 11 Kim Vann

11 Erin Whitehead
 12 Trey Shively
 12 Mark Vastartis
 13 Tanya Palmer
 14 Lue Andree
 14 Aleyna Gambone
 14 Beverly Gooding
 15 Kathy Auble
 15 Chuck Gezze
 18 Nancy Lundholm
 18 Sarah Lundholm
 18 Emma Santora
 19 Samuel Donze
 19 Robin Engler
 19 Joan Olszko
 20 Kyle Romance
 20 Rob Wilson
 21 Grace Auble
 21 Ben King
 21 Jill Zawada
 22 Penelope Nehlsen
 22 Amelia Samblanet
 22 Ann Zupanc
 23 Megan Juniper
 24 Andy Dorman
 26 Helen Lee
 26 Bob Snyderwine
 27 Bridget Gee
 28 Oliver Bellone
 28 Bryn Bisco
 29 Kristin Bisco
 29 Jamie Hocutt
 29 Hilary Houff
 30 Grant Palmer
 31 Andrew Scott



1 Samantha Bellone
 1 Greg Eberhardt
 1 Mary Kaminski
 1 Elizabeth Mathewson
 2 David Hurder
 3 Ann Rittman
 4 Luke Dorman
 4 Marilyn Huber
 4 Augie Mihalek
 4 Tim Miller
 5 Harry Wilson
 6 Dana Schwendeman
 6 David Teare
 8 Max Mellott
 8 Quinn Slifcak
 9 Jennifer Mathewson
 9 Ellie Ritterbusch
 9 Sandy Whitton
 10 Tonya Boldt
 10 Jackie Daugherty
 10 Travis Papesch
 10 Matthew Robusto
 11 Jinho Lee
 13 Jessica Vastartis
 14 Doug Huth
 16 Claire Hayes
 17 Kathy Bartholomew
 17 Ash Watkins

18 Gary Traicoff
 18 Charles Wilson
 19 Joshua Stacher
 19 Emily Vastartis
 19 Meredith Weber
 20 Becky Gezze
 20 Claire Kenney
 20 James Patrick
 20 Jon Wise
 21 Audrey Fowler
 23 Gianna Hricko
 23 Emma Sak
 24 Russ Dieringer
 26 Brett Hubert
 26 Owen Paroda
 26 Austin Pribble
 26 Jeff Schillo
 27 Kathy Holmes
 27 Annie Madaus
 27 Jeannie McBride
 28 Matt Harper, Jr.
 28 Mary Jane Matts Slifcak
 29 Matt Harper, Sr.
 29 Amy Magee
 29 Cameron Richardson
 30 Kaiya Crouch
 30 Ella Davis
 30 Craig Kotnik



Fellowship Groups Form at BUMC—*Begins October 2023*—Jesus invited all kinds of people to eat together in lots of different places, knowing that in the breaking of bread people often find a chance for deeper relationship with God and one another. Our Fellowship Committee is launching a new program to help us do just that! Whether you are picnicking, potlucking, hosting, or dining out; whether you participate solo, with a spouse or partner, or with a family of any age, **The Good Grub Social Club** will bring together a small group of 8 adults for fellowship and a meal with a similar goal. Groups will meet four times a year and share

coordinating and hosting roles. Together, you'll meet new friends, connect with other people, find things you did not know you had in common, and deepen your sense of community with Brecksville United Methodist Church. Sign up with a sense of adventure! [Registration is open now at BUMCLinks.com](https://bumclinks.com). Sign up by September 10. Groups will be announced by September 30 and will begin meeting in October. Want to know more? Have ideas? Want to help? Contact Catherine Vastartis or Judy McCrodden. (Don't have their contact info? Call the church office 440-526-8938.)



What started as a pandemic pick me up continues to this day! Take a moment to say a prayer and send a note each week!

Know someone celebrating something or someone who could use a reminder that they are loved? Nominate them for next month's list!

Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

August

Care and Prayer!

Week of August 6

Betty Monnin *Happy Birthday!*

6611 Timberlane Dr

Independence, OH 44131-6564

Week of August 13

Bev Huber

8555 Hillside Rd

Independence, OH 44131-5427

Week of August 20

Carol & Dick Sladky

7020 Windward Hills Dr

Brecksville, OH 44141-2441

Week of August 27

Jane Petrie

6814 Rosemont Dr

Brecksville, OH 44141-2613

September

Care and Prayer!

Week of September 3

Ann Rittman *Happy Birthday!*

200 Laurel Lake Dr Apt E373

Hudson, OH 44236-2181

Week of September 10

Dorothy Pliske

8239 York Rd Apt 2002

North Royalton, OH 44133-1254

Week of September 17

Loretta Timms

1725 Jonathans Trce

Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Week of September 24

Dorothy Jordan

200 Laurel Lake Dr Apt W227

Hudson, OH 44236-2169



Bev and Marilyn Huber wish to thank everyone for the outpouring of good wishes. The many cards, visits and prayers are deeply appreciated.



membership

WITH BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

If you have been asking yourself “What can I do for God through this church?” and “How can I help this church reach more people with the Good News of Jesus?”, it’s time to prayerfully consider whether you’re ready to become a member of the church. BUMC’s Membership Journey has several steps to help you discern whether we are a good “fit” for you and whether becoming a member is the next step in your faith journey. Sign up at BUMCLinks.com!



Talk with the Team is an opportunity to gather around the table with our Ministry Team, ask questions, and get to know us. We will share about the ministries and missions of BUMC, and take a tour of the building. The next Talk with the Team is on **Sunday, September 17 at 11:30 am**.



Basic Beliefs is a 4-week class focused on learning the basics of faith through a United Methodist lens and the history of our denomination. Before you become a member of a United Methodist Church, it’s important to know whether you’re “our kind of crazy.” There’s so many wonderful things in The UMC, and you’ll hear about them in this class! The next session of Basic Beliefs will meet **Sundays at 9:30 - 9/24 through 10/15**.



The Membership Class is the final step in the Membership Journey and focuses on what it means to be a discipling, active member of Brecksville UMC: using your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to love God and love others. In this 3-week class, you will discover your “Jesus story,” learn about your God-given gifts and talents, and how you can use those gifts to glorify God through BUMC. **October 22, 29 and November 5**. New members will be received during services on Sunday, November 12.

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:30 Staff 12:45 Sewing Group 2:30 Comm at Chippewa Pl 7 SPRC	2 6:30 Breakfast <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3  <i>Happy Birthday Jeff Hastings, Facility Manager!</i>	4 11-3 Blood Drive 12 God In Nature	5
6...A River 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Prayer Circle	7	8 10:30 Staff	9 6:30 Breakfast 12 Betty's Birthday at the Ballpark <i>Church Office Closed</i>	10  9:30 FB Live	11 12 God In Nature 7 Worship in the Woods	12 Trike & Bike Brecksville for Pediatric Cancer Research
13...An Artist 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Missions 11:30 Prayer Cir	14 10:30 Lectio Divina	15 10 Knitting 10:30 Staff 7 Trustees	16 6:30 Breakfast	17  <i>Program Guide Deadline</i> 9:30 FB Live	18 12 God In Nature	19 10:30 BBH Swim Team Car Wash
20...3 Dancers Blessing Backpacks 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 9:40-10:20 Church Vote 10:30 Worship with Baptism 11:30 Prayer Cir	21 10:30 Lectio Divina 6 Sewing Group <i>First Day of School BBH</i>	22 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Finance	23 6:30 Breakfast	24  9:30 FB Live 10 Program Guide Production Party! 6:30 Choir 	25 12 God In Nature	26
27...A Fort 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Prayer Cir	28 10:30 Lectio Divina	29 7 Lectio	30 6:30 Breakfast 7 Fellowship Committee?	31 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir		

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12 God In Nature	2
3...The Stars 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Donuts & Coffee?	4  <i>Church offices closed</i>	5 10:30 Staff 2:30 Comm at Chippewa 7 Lectio	6 6:30 Breakfast 7 UWF/Eve Circle Meeting <i>Happy Birthday, Dana!</i>	 7 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir	8 12 God In Nature	9
10 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fall Kick Off Celebration	11 10:30 Lectio	12 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio	13 6:30 Breakfast 4 Missions & Community Engagement 7 Bible Study	 14 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir	15 12 God In Nature	16 8:30—3:30 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build
17 3rd Grade Bible Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Talk with the Team	18 10:30 Lectio	19 10 Knitting 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Trustees	20 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study	 21 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir <i>Last day for submissions for the fall program guide!</i>	22 12 God In Nature 9:30 UWF Board Meeting	23
24 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship	25 10:30 Lectio <i>Flat Rock Homes Trip using some of our parking lot</i>	26 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio 7 Finance	27 6:30 Breakfast 7 Bible Study	 28 9 Church Council Reports Due! 9:30 FB Live 10 Newsletter Production Party	29 12 God In Nature	30

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SUMMER! Monday—Friday

8 am—1 pm

440-526-8938

info@brecksvilleumc.com



Coming
Next Month!



FALL PROGRAM GUIDE

Subscribe to the *Good Word* to get your copy!



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.

**Resolution of the Brecksville United Methodist Church
to Change the Congregational Organizational Plan to a
Simplified Accountable Governance Structure**

WHEREAS, ¶247.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church allows alternative models of governance; and

WHEREAS, the simplified, accountable leadership structure (“SAS”) is utilized as an alternative model throughout the denomination and fulfills the provisions of ¶243 of the 2016 Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council of Brecksville United Methodist Church (“BUMC”) prayerfully voted on April 11, 2023 to explore the simplified, accountable structure for local church governance; and

WHEREAS, the congregation received information regarding the SAS model in various written communications (Blast, Good Word); and

WHEREAS, as part of the discernment process, the congregation had the opportunity to provide, and did provide, feedback concerning a potential change in governance structure via various venues, both in person and via Zoom meetings, including two town halls, church committee meetings, Sunday coffee hour, and small groups; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council unanimously voted on July 11, 2023, to proceed to formally present to the District Superintendent a proposal to convert to the SAS model for reasons of streamlined governance, efficiency in carrying out BUMC’s mission and vision, greater accountability, and to increase the opportunities for members of the congregation to utilize their talents, passions and time in carrying out the church’s mission ; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council, Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, the SAS discernment task force, and the pastor, after months of discernment, have crafted an alternative organizational model of governance (the “SAS Plan”) for BUMC and offered this proposal to the district superintendent for approval; and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent approved the SAS Plan on July 20, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

On January 1, 2024, the disciplinary authority and various responsibilities of the Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees will be combined into a single body called the Leadership Board. Existing elected leadership of all classes of all constituent committees that make up the new Leadership Board will conclude their terms of service on December 31, 2023, as the church transitions to the new SAS Plan.

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development of BUMC is directed to submit a list of officers and members of a simplified, accountable leadership structure known as the Leadership Board divided into appropriate three-year classes, as outlined in the Discipline, for election by the Charge Conference. All members of the Leadership Board and the Charge Conference will be professing members. The Chair of the Leadership Board will be elected from among the voting members of the Leadership Board in the first board meeting of each year, and the person so elected will be the Leadership Board Chair. The Leadership Board will be deemed to be the “Board of Trustees” or

“Trustees” on all matters as required by the Discipline, and for those purposes, the Leadership Board Chair will be deemed the Board of Trustees Chair.

On January 1, 2024, the Charge Conference of BUMC will be composed of the members of the Leadership Board, appointed clergy (ex-officio), together with retired ordained ministers and retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership on our Charge Conference, Lay members of Annual Conference, the Lay Leader, Treasurer and Finance Secretary (if non-staff), and the elected membership of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development.

The Lay Member of Annual Conference and Lay Leader are ex officio members of the Leadership Board, if not already elected into a membership class of the Leadership Board.

All Disciplinary requirements and qualifications for each of the constituent committees Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees will continue with the combined Leadership Board, including Trustee age of majority qualifications and Staff Parish Relations Committee household membership limitations.

All references to the Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees in all existing church policies, as of December 31, 2023, shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board beginning on January 1, 2024.

The Board of Trustees is directed immediately to make appropriate amendments, as needed, to the congregation’s Articles of Incorporation to reflect the new SAS Plan and submit an update to the Secretary of State’s office in a manner defined by state law for nonprofit corporations.

In service to our common mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, all other existing committees and ministry teams will be accountable to the Pastor and Leadership Board in administrative matters and in fulfillment of ¶243. The Gifts and Memorials Committee will be continue to be appointed by the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development and will be accountable to the Leadership Board in all matters, and is responsible for regular reporting to the Leadership Board.

The Leadership Board will abide with existing financial, child protection, building use, and personnel policies along with the inaugural Guiding Principles. The board will create a Leadership Board Covenant. The Leadership Board is empowered to amend these policies, principles, and covenants. The Leadership Board shall share updated Guiding Principles with the Charge Conference annually.

APPROVED,

(date)_____

Secretary, Church Conference

Chair, Church Council