

LOVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The Good Word

JULY 2022, ISSUE 7 VOL. 12

Let Us Live 
LOVE 
1 John 4:7-13 (NIV)

East Ohio Annual Conference 2022 convened June 9-11 at the John S. Knight Center in Akron. It was the first time in three years that we were able to hold an in-person Annual Conference, and it was wonderful, strange, Spirit-filled, and exhausting all at the same time.

Annual Conference is an annual gathering of laity and clergy from United Methodist Churches across the East Ohio Area. We spend time in worship together, celebrate milestones in ministry (retirement, commissioning, and ordination), and do the business of the church. We approve budgets, vote on minimum salary changes, celebrate the ministry of churches who have closed in the past year, and a whole bunch of other business matters.

Really, it's like an amped-up Church Council meeting of over 900 people. And like Church Council meetings (and anything human-made), we can get so focused on "business" that we forget the true purpose of the church: to connect us to God so that we are growing disciples who grow disciples. This year, the theme of Annual Conference was "Let Us Live LOVE." And we were drawn back to this theme over and over as we saw to the business of the church.

...Continues on page three



Top image: Rev. Heidi Welch and others pray over Bishop Tracy S. Malone. Pictured at left, clockwise from top: Retirements of Rev. Clark Stein and Rev. Karen Oehl and others were celebrated; Rev. Kathy Dickriede and Lisa (Drew) Kropinak spoke, Machala Comenscheck sang. See more at EOCUMC.com Photos courtesy EOC UMC

☎ 440-526-8938

✉ office@brecksvilleumc.com

www.brecksvilleumc.com 

Connect with us!

☎ 440-526-8938

✉ office@brecksvilleumc.com

📍 65 Public Square, 44141

🌐 www.brecksvilleumc.com

Senior Pastor—Rev. Heidi Welch
pastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Pastor of Visitation—
Rev. Barbara Bartholomew,
associatepastor@brecksvilleumc.com

Christian Education—Jenny Gee
education@brecksvilleumc.com

Wiggle Room Coordinator—
Matthew Botzman
matthew@brecksvilleumc.com

Youth Ministry—Dana Schwendeman
youth@brecksvilleumc.com

Music Ministry—Machala Comenshek
machala@brecksvilleumc.com

Worship Leader
Jamie Schwendeman,
jamie@brecksvilleumc.com

Organist/Accompanist—Sean Brown
sean@brecksvilleumc.com

Technical Media Dir.—Mike Murphy
mike@brecksvilleumc.com

Communication & Connection—
Melanie Smith
melanie@brecksvilleumc.com

Office Manager—Jaclyn Torres
Jaclyn@brecksvilleumc.com

Finance Manager—Becky Paroda
finance@brecksvilleumc.com

Facilities Mgrs.—Jeff & Scott Hastings
facilities@brecksvilleumc.com

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Editor, Melanie Smith
melanie@brecksvilleumc.com

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

HONEST WORSHIP



JOIN THE BAND!

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

Do you play an instrument or love to sing? Then consider using your musical gifts to serve God and your congregation! Learn how you can be part of creating music for worship—once a week, once a quarter or once a year—by reaching out to the music ministry team. Call the office or email music@brecksvilleumc.com.



Worship In the Woods

“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order.” – John Burroughs

Celebrate the beauty of creation in our own Cleveland Metroparks this summer with Jenny Gee and the whole Worship in the Woods crew. Take time to pray, sing and connect with God and one another in the natural spaces that make up Brecksville Reservation. We hike relatively easy-to-navigate trails and then stop along the way to worship, sing and praise God. Return to the shelter for s'mores (on Friday evenings) or coffee and muffins (on Saturday mornings). Sign up at BUMCLinks.com

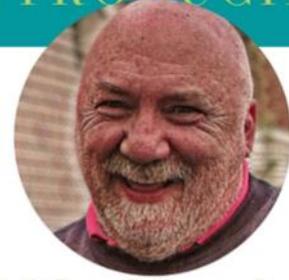
Remaining Worship in the Woods Dates this summer:

Friday, July 1 at 7 pm

Saturday, July 16 at 9 am

Friday, August 5 at 7 pm

Saturday, August 20 at 9 am



Mike Murphy

Technical Media Director

Mike@brecksvilleumc.com

Reaching People Through Technology

Working as the technical manager of a long running crafts program for the PBS Create Channel taught Mike Murphy how to build and coach a team and how to help people share what they know with a wider audience. Working as a freelance video editor built his skills for telling stories with media. Working with corporations taught him how to connect people using technology. Now he's bringing his talents to Brecksville United Methodist Church!

Our Technical Media Director leads a team of staff and volunteers in the production of our live and streaming worship services. Like the coach of a sports team, the Technical Media Director develops a game plan for each Sunday, recruits talent, and equips and trains the team for success. What is success? Reaching people with the message that God loves them, "even if, and no matter what."

In his interviews, Mike talked a lot about how much he loves teaching new people new things. If you'd like to learn with him (or just say "welcome!") email him at mike@brecksvilleumc.com.

A longtime resident of Broadview Heights, Mike has two grown children and a five month old grandchild. A man of faith, he is a member of St. Basil The Great Catholic Church.

Continued from page three

Knowing Bishop Malone, the focus on living out Christ's love was very intentional; this Annual Conference brought with it an underlying tension of growing division and dis-ease between those identifying as more theologically "progressive" and those more theologically "conservative." During her Episcopal Address, Bishop Malone said, "We are more than conservatives and liberals and traditionalists and progressives and centrists and Republicans and Democrats or gay or straight or queer or Black or Brown or white or young or old. ***There are no box seats in the Kingdom and dare we not box each other in.***"

This last line hit me in the heart. It was a reminder that although I might not agree with someone theologically or practically, there is still a place for them in God's Kin-dom, and that place is no less (or better) than mine.

Eleven churches in the East Ohio Area chose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church this year, due to irreconcilable differences in biblical interpretation. (Yes, this is a *very* simplified statement; I'd be happy to elaborate in a conversation.) It's sad that these churches chose to disaffiliate, and yet I trust that God will continue to work through them, no matter the name on their sign.

In her message during the Clergy Executive Session the day before Annual Conference began, Bishop Malone told clergy, "If your church is not currently reaching new people for Jesus Christ, believe you me that changing the denominational label or the church address is not going to make a difference. I urge us to preoccupy ourselves in the making of disciples and the growing of the kingdom of God. Let us be bold and courageous and outdo each other in sharing the Gospel of good news."

Yes, The United Methodist Church is splitting/splintering/breaking/shattering. For someone who has grown up in, loves, and finds my livelihood in The UMC, this is scary. HOWEVER, I'm confident the Body of Christ will continue to make itself known in the world. The local church is really where Jesus "gets down to business," and I can see that every day at Brecksville UMC.

So, no matter what the future holds for The United Methodist Church, Brecksville United Methodist Church will keep doing what it does best: *creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another so that* the love of God might be shown, and healing and wholeness is brought to the world.

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

PS. If you're intrigued by the broader workings of The UMC and would like to learn more, I encourage you to take the next Basic Beliefs class this fall/winter! Contact the office to sign up.

Brecksville UMC

SUMMER

ALL CHURCH PICNIC



FRIDAY 7.15 / 5 PM

Joyful Gathering - Bring your friends!

**Oak Grove Picnic Pavilion
Brecksville Reservation**

The Fellowship Committee is preparing
a simple meal of sandwiches, chips and cookies.

**PLEASE RSVP - 440-526-8938
OFFICE@BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM**





DETERMINED SERVICE

Help the VBS kids fill Gus the Food Bus on Thursday, July 14 from 9 am to noon at the Oak Grove Picnic Shelter!

Here is what TEAC is hoping to receive.

- Unopened, Unexpired Non-Perishable Food
- Unopened Personal Care Products
- Unopened Cleaning Products
- Fresh Produce
- Fresh Bakery & Bread
- Baby Formula & Food
- Baby Diapers & Wipes
- Nutritional Supplement Shakes (Boost, Ensure)
- Feminine Hygiene (tampons & pads)
- Bladder Protection
- Pet Food

BE SOMEBODY

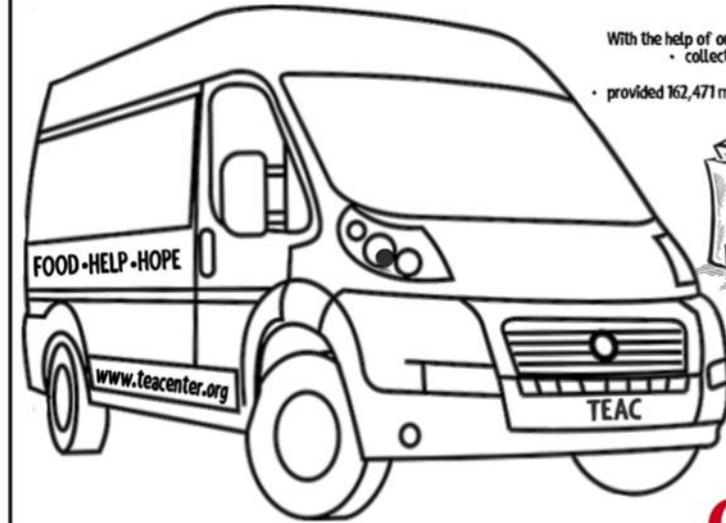


Everybody thinks *Somebody* will do it! What if *Nobody* does?

Be Somebody by signing up for alerts by text, email or phone when there is an unmet need at the church!

Sign up to Be Somebody at BUMCLinks.com

GUS THE FOOD BUS



TEAC FACTS

The Emergency Assistance Center

- With the help of our community in 2020 TEAC ...
- collected over 100,000 lbs. of food
 - served 2985 children
 - provided 162,471 meals to our neighbors in need



VBS and Gus the Food Bus

We are just weeks away from another great VBS in the Park! 115 children and 44 adults will spend a week learning Bible stories and songs and, most importantly, how very much God loves and values each one of us. On Sunday, July 10, we have a VBS Commissioning during our worship services.

We are in need of some pint sized canning jars. Our older kids will be making a great craft with them. Consider dropping one off in the coatroom next time you go past church. Please keep everyone covered in prayer throughout that week and in these weeks leading up to VBS. There are a lot of moving parts that go into making this week seem so effortless... we know that the Spirit surrounds us and holds us as we all grow closer to Jesus!

The VBS Mission this year is helping provide food security to our neighbors to the south in Northern Summit County. Gus the Food Bus will be visiting us on Thursday, July 14 right in the park. Gus is the transportation vehicle associated with The Emergency Assistance Center of Northern Summit County. The mission of the TEAC is to provide food, clothing, personal hygiene items and seasonal support for our neighbors in need. The goal at TEAC is to give every hungry neighbor enough food to feed themselves and their family members, and to provide the other essential needs of clothing and hygiene, in an atmosphere of dignity, respect and fairness.

We will be taking food donations from 9 am to noon at the Oak Grove Picnic Shelter. We will not be able to transport food items donated earlier or later than July 14 since we have to move so many items each day to the park. But if you'd like to help, see the shopping list above!

- Jenny Gee, Director of Christian Education

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith!



United
Women
in Faith

The change is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs. At Brecksville United Methodist Church, we remain committed to our mission activities to help women, children and youth. For more information visit the new website at www.uwfaith.org

From the website you can learn about the new focus:

Who we are: We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us.

Take
Note

No meetings in July & August. See you in September for our evening meeting and presentation.

Did you borrow "The Next Right Thing" from the UMW Library in the Parlor? Someone else would like to read it. Please return it to the parlor or contact Sandy Crist to let her know you have it. Call 440-526-1494



A Piece of History

What was happening here in 1948-49 in the Women's Society of Christian Service, which was later named United Methodist Women?

That year the President of the organization was Mrs. Harry Bremmer. Mrs. Adelbert M. Kohler was Vice President. Mrs. Chas. Flade was secretary, Mrs. W. Schaal was treasurer. And Mrs. Wm Bittner was Children's & Youth Work

There were two Circles: Circle I, *The Evangeline Group* was co-chaired by Mrs. Hugh Gremb, and Mrs. Thomas Kemble. *The Gleaners*, Circle II, was chaired by Mrs. Wm. Klein, and Mrs. Wm Bittner.

Meetings were held monthly with a luncheon included. Programs were sometimes led by the members including:

- "United Nations" by Mrs. Warren Troutman
- "Cooperation in Building a Christian China" by Miss Mary K. Gisher
- "Dawn Brightens in Korea," by Mrs L. Barrett.
- "Alaska Among the Northern Lights" by Mrs. Geo. Klein

Other churches were invited to participate in some of the meetings including the ladies of the Brecksville Congregational Church.

- Submitted by Sharon Judson, one of our Church Historians

Eve Circle Collection for Women in Need

For 20 years, Rahab Ministries has been helping women of Akron build lives of health and wholeness. Authentic relationships and trauma-informed resources equip women and children at their adult safe-houses become all they were meant to be. We can aid in this recovery by donating items on their "most needed" wish list during the first 2 weeks of July. The Eve Circle will have a bin in the coatroom (on the first floor) for donations if you are moved to help by shopping for these needed items.

- women's tanks, tees, and shorts - size large
- summer shoes, sandals, flip flops
- new adult sized bras and underwear
- ethnic hair products: Cantu at Target
- k-cups
- Bibles

Last day to donate is Sunday, July 10. Thank you!



- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Jerry Bartholomew | 12 Dave Lienert | 22 Michelle Botzman |
| 2 Domenic Bellone | 12 Rus Welch | 22 Paul Frank |
| 2 Brett Bender | 13 Diana Jacob | 22 Matthew Mellott |
| 2 Delaney Hurley | 13 Claire Leonard | 23 Ruth Herman |
| 2 Henry McCrodden | 13 Elise Leonard | 23 Nathan Olszko |
| 2 Jack McCrodden | 13 Bradley Raybuck | 24 Elizabeth Jaszczak |
| 2 Derek Ritterbusch | 14 Jacob Krejsa | 24 Carl Opatrny |
| 3 Kathleen Koteles | 14 Drew White | 24 Allison Toensing |
| 3 Elizabeth Romance | 14 Jane Whitehead | 25 Addison Cave |
| 4 Sarah Ford | 15 Grant Barnum | 25 Deegan Harrell |
| 4 Jim Lee | 15 Bill Neidinger | 25 Lawrence Kaminski |
| 4 Johnny Santora | 16 Matthew Nurre | 25 Matthew Manocchio |
| 5 Douglas Geib II | 17 Jim Fredrick | 26 William Olszko |
| 6 Gabrielle Marotto | 17 Stephanie Ling | 26 Carl Rosborough |
| 7 Janet Beck | 17 Cara Santora | 27 Laurie Riccardi |
| 7 Wendy Chenney | 18 Camille Baker | 28 Mary Cay Derry |
| 7 Tyler Teare | 19 Taylor Heisler | 28 Adaline Knight |
| 7 Emily Telischak | 19 Tim Kenney | 28 Ruby Ludwig |
| 8 Kevan Fisher | 19 Adriana Sottosanti | 29 Patricia Frank |
| 8 Jon Wygonski | 20 Wade Hurley | 29 Janet Patterson |
| 9 Kate Falko | 21 Amy Hazelton | 30 Paul Dadas |
| 9 Kevin Machesky | 21 Zachary Kardos | 30 Rachel Machesky |
| 9 Tracy Scott | 21 Miles Paroda | 30 Laurie Robusto |
| 10 Matt Hof | 21 Nick Rajkovich | 30 Beth Smith |
| 10 Karen Memmer | 21 Stefan Wygonski | 30 Bryan Smith |
| 11 Joan Bloch | | 30 Eli Stacher |



Each week at Staff Meeting we celebrate “God Moments” and lift up prayers of thanks to God for the way lives are touched when we reach out to one another in service. People like Anna Miller, who comes to Bike Fix It Day and always brings a friend.

Thank you Anna (and friends!) for helping us “get spokes to folks!” Life happens sometimes, and when Craig Kotnik was knocked low and couldn’t play the guitar one Sunday, Arthur Sager stepped up to the plate. With little time to rehearse, he shared beautiful guitar music and vocal harmonies to enhance our worship service. Thank you, Arthur, for sharing your gifts! The Fellowship Committee was so kind to make and serve cookies and lemonade for our Graduation Sunday celebration in June. Thank you for making Sunday morning sweeter, literally! Leisa Scott answered the call to serve as an usher for the first time in June. Thank you, Leisa, for sharing your warm smile and for helping make everyone welcome at church! Thank you, all!



JULY

Show your care with prayer!

What a treat it will be for these folks to open their mailbox and find that you were thinking of them with a card or letter!

Week of July 3

Jane Whitehead

Jane is quite ill—cards of comfort
38 Laurel Lake Dr
Hudson, OH 44236-2158

Week of July 10

Shirley Galik

Shirley has a new address!
7005 Stadium Dr Apt 210
Brecksville, OH 44141-1895

Week of July 17

Faith McAllister

21 Poppy Ln
Granville, OH 43023-3200

Week of July 24

Ruby Ludwig

Ruby’s birthday is July 28
10051 Deerfield Ln
Brecksville, OH 44141-3602

Week of July 31

Austin “Skip” Smith

Skip’s birthday is August 1
6915 Oakes Rd
Brecksville, OH 44141-2735

Contact Pastor Barbara to nominate someone for the list!

July

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| July 1 - 10: Collection for women in recovery from human trafficking See the list on page 5 and bring your donations to the collection bin at church. | | | | | 1 7 Worship In the Woods | 2  |
| 3 <i>Wiggle</i> Room 8—11 every Sunday! 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship | 4  <i>Offices Closed</i> | 5 10 Staff Mtg 1:30 Chippewa Place Comm | 6 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast | 7  <i>Paper Recycling Pick up Day!</i> 8p Band Rehearsal | 8 <i>Slow Faith Friday—</i> Join the conversation in our Facebook Group! | 9 8:30—Noon Mulching the church garden beds. Want to help?  |
| 10 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship | 11 | 12 | 13 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast | 14  8p Band Rehearsal | 15  Church Picnic in the Park! | 16 9 a Worship In the Woods |
| VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—FOOD TRUCK PARTY—9:30—12:30 | | | | | | |
| 17 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship | 18 10:30 Lectio | 19 7 Lectio Returns 7 Trustees | 20 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast | 21  8p Band Rehearsal <i>Newsletter deadline</i> | 22 | 23  |
| REACH OUT CAMP | | | | | | |
| 24 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 11 Hymn Sing <i>Pastor Heidi preaching at Lakeside today</i> | 25 10:30 Lectio | 26 7 Lectio 7 Finance | 27 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast | 28  10 Newsletter Production Party 8p Band Rehearsal | 29 | 30 |
| 31 8:30 Worship on the Lawn 10 Worship 10—1 Blood Drive | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> <p>CRITICAL SHORTAGE All Blood Types</p>  <p>vitalant</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Community Blood Drive SUNDAY, JULY 31 10 am to 1 pm</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Register at www.vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal</p> </div> </div> | | | | | |

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



BRECKSVILLE
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 65 PUBLIC SQUARE
 BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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SUMMER

Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday

8 am — 1 pm

440-526-8938

office@brecksvilleumc.com



Community Blood Drive

Register at Vitalant.org/OhioDonorPortal

SUNDAY
7.31.22
 10 am - 1 pm



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.

Your Gifts Change Lives...

...ours and the people we're reaching. Your gifts do more than just keep the lights on and the doors open – they allow us to create safe spaces to grow with God and one another, and to live in service to our community near and far.

Giving is easy and secure!

Online Giving

Give quickly and easily from any device with online giving through Realm. You can create an account to track your giving and to set up a recurring gift that runs automatically. Or, give without an account for a fast one time gift. Visit this website:

<https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/Give>

Text Giving

Give easily and securely from anywhere, anytime.

Text "GiveBUMC"

And "Amount" To 73256

and follow the prompts.

Give By Mail

Brecksville United Methodist Church

65 Public Square

Brecksville, OH 44141

Recurring Gifts

A recurring gift is a simple and efficient way to ensure your ongoing support for Brecksville United Methodist Church. By setting up a recurring monthly, quarterly or annual gift, you are supporting the mission and ministry of our church and helping the church plan for the future.

Recurring gifts are:

- **Easy** - Simply select your giving amount and frequency.
- **Convenient** - Set automatic credit or debit card payments and receive a year-end tax receipt
- **Sustainable** - Recurring gifts are predominately paperless
- **Rewarding** - knowing that you are helping transform the world by supporting a church that's rooted in worship, nourished in groups and branching out in service.

No matter the size, your recurring gift will make a difference!



Guidebook Directory Published — with Errors

We are thankful for our partnership with Guidebook Publishing. They produce an annual pocket directory for our church every year, free of charge! The directories are mailed directly to each family's home. This year, there was a mix up. They used an old mailing list, so there are people who did not receive a copy, and others who are wondering why they did! Because of other challenges, our new book also needs a number of edits and updates. **Please note: You do not need to be an "official member" of the church to be included in the directory. It's for anyone who wants to connect!**

Brecksville United Methodist Church Guide Book & Directory

Corrections & Updates

Please contact the church office with additional updates: 440-526-8938

BARTHOLOMEW, Rev. Barbara
Cellphone 330-714-7922

BROWN, Sean 440- 991-6427
email: Sean@brecksvilleumc.com

GALLIK, Shirley 216-409-0399
7005 Stadium Drive, Apt 210
Brecksville, OH 44141

GARDNER, David 216-533-9910
Emily 216-410-2680
4803 Buckingham Dr
Broadview Hts, OH 44147-2154
Email: gardnerd12@gmail.com
Gardner.emily@gmail.com

HARPER, Al & Barb 440-838-4938
10430 Whitewood Rd. Brecksville,
44141-1638
email: harper.b@att.net

HAZLETT, Ruth 330-528-7675
915 W Aurora Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

HUBER, Doug
Included in error. Address is wrong.

KOTNIK, Craig 330-554-7304
Mary 330-256-3262
242 Cranberry Trl,
Sagamore Hills 44067-2412
Craig: ckotnik@yahoo.com
Mary: mekotnik@yahoo.com

PARODA, Mike 440-799-3557
Becky 440-823-1909
5773 W. Mill Rd.
Broadview Hts 44147-2155
Email: MParoda@gmail.com
Becky@brecksvilleumc.com

SAK, Stephanie & Steven
..... 440-746-0039
1112 Sprucedale Rd
Broadview Hts, OH 44147-1353
Email: sjd.sak@outlook.com

SMITH, George Jr. 440-439-4024
857 High St, Bedford, 44146-3868
email: gs0805@yahoo.com

- If you did not receive a Guidebook, but want one, please contact the office.
 - If your address was omitted or is incorrect, please contact the office.
 - If your contact information was not listed, but you would like it to be included in the next directory, please send it to the office.
 - Do we have your picture? If not, send us a copy of your favorite photo and we'll include it in our next pictorial directory.
 - If you did receive a copy of the 2022 Guidebook, slip this corrections page inside so you'll have a more complete directory.
- The cost of the guidebook is offset by local advertisers. We're thankful for The Maier Team at Keller Williams Realty; Danbury Senior Living; Fortuna Funeral Home; Humenik Funeral Chapel; Nosek-McCreery Funeral, Cremation & Green Services; LeafGuard, and Life Alert for supporting this effort.
- In the words of Yogi Berra, "We made too many wrong mistakes." Thank you for your patience and grace, friends!