



The Good Word

SEPTEMBER 2022, ISSUE 9 VOL. 12

Creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

Warning: this is going to be another “pastor’s newsletter article about change.” But before you start praying, “Lord, have mercy on us!”—hear me out.

One of the things I learned in seminary was about “church size cultures.” It was interesting to me, but honestly, I never thought it’d be anything to share with the greater congregation. However, as I’m seeing our church grow, I think this bit of “seminary knowledge” would be helpful in understanding what we’re currently living through at Brecksville UMC. So here it goes...

Church Size Cultures 101:

Did you know that a large church isn’t just a small church with more people? It’s true. Because of the relational dynamics of ministry, the culture of a church changes as the number of people changes.

In small churches (40-200), there’s a pastor and the congregation. Decisions are made by lay leaders, who oversee the pastor (and staff, if there is any), who then does the ministry. Everyone knows everyone else and they act like one big (happy?) family, with the pastor acting as a shepherd.

In medium-size churches (200-400), there’s a pastor, staff, and the congregation. As the congregation grows larger, so does the staff, in order to meet the diverse needs of the congregation. There are too many people for everyone to know everyone else, so relationships are built through intentional gatherings of small groups (classes, mission opportunities, coffee hour, etc.).

Decisions are made by boards and committees, in conjunction with the pastor. As the congregation grows,

the laity begin to take more and more of an active role in ministry, in partnership with the staff, who is then tasked with leading church programs. As the church grows, the pastor becomes more of a “rancher,” training, organizing, and supporting laity and staff for ministry.

In large churches (400-800), again there’s pastors, staff, and the congregation. As the congregation grows, the staff members become more specialized in what they do, as do the pastors. Decisions are made by the pastor, staff, and lay leadership, who focus on the “balcony view” of the entire church—how the church is working together to live out its vision. The staff’s roles change from leading church programs to empowering laity to lead programs. So, what does this mean for BUMC?

In the spring of 2019, Brecksville UMC was consistently worshipping at about 150-200 people. By January 2020, we were consistently hitting over that 200 mark. Then COVID hit, and we had no idea what would happen when we returned. However, we’ve been pleasantly surprised that since returning to in-person worship in May 2021, we have been worshipping with about 300-350 individuals each week.

Yay us!

There are many reasons for the growth we’ve seen in the past couple of years, and we definitely need to celebrate that (Woot!)! With this article, though, I want to focus on what this growth means to our faith community.

In three years, we’ve gone from a small-church culture to a (larger) medium-church culture. While also going

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Published monthly by
Brecksville United Methodist Church
65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141
Article deadline 3rd Thursday
monthly

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

...Continued from front page

through other changes due to COVID, life, etc. This growth has changed us in a variety of ways, and we're not done growing! We've gone from knowing everyone and working as one big family, to getting to know one another (again or for the first time) through intentional small groups.

The first thing this growth means is that we can't expect to know everyone at worship or in a small group. We have to be willing to go up to someone and say, "Hi, my name is ____ it's good to see you here!" and begin a conversation, setting aside the fear that the person will be offended if we don't recognize them because they've been at Brecksville UMC for decades. (We also need to not get offended if this happens to us!)

The second thing this growth means is that the staff's roles are changing. It used to be that people would have ideas, give them to the staff, and the staff's job was to make things happen; then people would come and support the ministries. Now, though, we have so many ministries and programs that we're doing (or want to do!), that we need leaders to step up and lead with us. The staff's job is now to empower laity to lead ministries and programs, rather than leading them. 'Cuz let's be real: if we expect staff to lead everything our church does, we will drastically limit our church's abilities. This leads to the third thing...

This growth means that we need YOU to own this church! I don't mean "own" in a "don't touch my stuff" kind of way, but in a "I love and care about this place, so I want to help" kind of way. Remember that **YOU are Somebody** sermon I preached a few months ago? Yeah... that.

Finally, this growth means that we need to take a look at how we govern our church, and make sure we're not getting bogged down in meetings and discussions about ministry, but rather are creating space to do ministry. You'll hear more about this soon!

This church is growing because it's a spectacularly amazing group of individuals who are focused on 2 things: loving God & loving each other. And this church will only continue to grow if we each step out in faith, make a commitment of our time and energy, and use the gifts God has given us to help this church family flourish.

We (as a staff and leadership) are committed to helping you discover your spiritual gifts and how you can best use them both within the church and in daily life. Inside this newsletter are opportunities to uncover your spiritual gifts, get to know each other in a variety of small group gatherings, and ways you can be somebody at Brecksville UMC!

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

This church is
growing because it's
a spectacularly
amazing group of
individuals who are
focused on 2 things:
loving God & loving
each other.



WHAT'S OUR Sunday Morning "Why?"

When we came back to in-person worship in 2021, we came back to new worship times. We had known for a while that our old worship schedule (8:45 & 11:15) wasn't working as well as it did when it was first set. So, we put out a survey and asked people to share their thoughts and preferences. Out of that survey came our current worship schedule (8:30 & 10:00). We gave it a solid try, and this spring we put out another survey to ask: what's working well? What's not? How can it be tweaked?

I created a Task Force to consider these questions and discern the best Sunday morning schedule for Brecksville UMC. This Task Force has people from both types of worship services, as well as those who are "seasoned" BUMC-ers, and those who are newer to our community. We've met several times since March, pouring over the survey results, having honest conversation, and praying.

As we met, we realized we wouldn't find a schedule that suited everyone's preferences—that's just not possible. We also recognized that while Sunday mornings are very important to the life of our church, they're not everything. Our services are available online throughout the week (and we have people who regularly worship through them in-between Sundays!); we have classes and other opportunities for adults to grow throughout the week; and we utilize at-home resources for children and families.

So, our focus became: ***"What is our Sunday morning 'why?'"***

We came to appreciate that Sunday mornings are really about relationships. It's the time when the largest group of our church family gathers, so it provides a unique opportunity to grow our bond with God and one another.

Sunday mornings are to create space to encounter God and cultivate relationships with one another.

In order to do this well, we are changing our Sunday morning schedule. Beginning on September 18, our new schedule will be: **8:30 Worship, 9:30 Joyful Gathering, 10:30 Worship**

Our 8:30 worship is what I've come to describe as our "signature service." For part of the year, this is our outdoor service; for the remainder of the year, this is a different sort of service we're still working on. We know it will have a few consistent elements (like weekly celebration of Holy Communion) but we would love collaboration on what this service could be! This service will be 45 minutes long, enabling people to grab coffee and conversation before heading to class, if they so wish.

New Sunday Morning Schedule Begins September 18:

8:30 Worship

9:30 Joyful Gathering

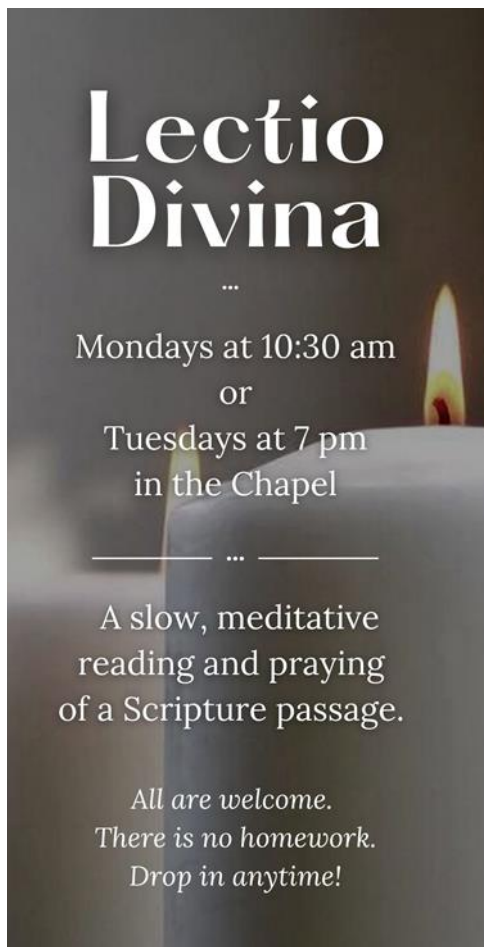
10:30 Worship

Our 9:30 hour will be a time of *Joyful Gathering*, including coffee hour, informal conversations based on the week's scripture and podcasts, and traditional Sunday School classes for children and adults. Classes will begin promptly at 9:30 and conclude by 10:20 so that those who are attending the 10:30 service can get to worship.

Our 10:30 worship will be very similar to our current 10:00 worship service, with the worship band leading many of the songs, Children's Moment, and Sprouts. We are also adding the choir to this service to compliment the band and highlight the many beautiful voices in our church.

We know this Sunday morning schedule isn't perfect. Our prayer is that it will enable us to intentionally create space to encounter God and cultivate relationships with one another, so that we can be empowered throughout the rest of our week!

- Pastor Heidi & the Sunday Morning Task Force



Any student in 7th grade or above is invited to join us for Confirmation this school year. Whether your student is brand new to the whole "church thing" or they are looking for a deeper connection to their faith, every student is welcome to explore and be confirmed in their faith!

What is Confirmation at Brecksville UMC?

It's an opportunity for students to have a personal exploration of what it means to be a Christian, and more specifically, a United Methodist. We learn about scripture, church history, prayer, spiritual development, theology, mission, and the structural connections of the UMC.

This learning takes place during our Sunday morning education hour (9:30 on Sunday mornings, beginning September 18), with their mentors, during worship, on retreat, and in many other avenues throughout the two-year process.

The confirmation journey ends with students deciding to claim their faith as their own and become full members of the United Methodist Church (or not!) Confirmation is a continuation of baptismal vows that parents make for their children as babies. Students can now say for themselves, "yes, I want to follow Jesus and I choose to be a United Methodist."

Our hope at Brecksville UMC is that Confirmation can be a safe space for students to grow with God and one another. A place to ask questions, follow their curiosity, and find a place in the world (and the church) where they feel they can totally be themselves.

Sound like something your student would enjoy? Reach out to our youth director, Dana Schwendeman, at youth@brecksvilleumc.com

- ▶ Confirmation Parent Info Meeting—Aug. 28 at 11 am in Youth Room

Come learn more about the journey

- ▶ Confirmation Class Begins—Sept. 18 at 9:30 am in the Youth Room

Note the new time for Sunday classes!

- ▶ Confirmation Bible Sunday—Sept. 18 at the 10:30 Worship Service.

Each student will receive their very own Bible

- ▶ Confirmation "Get to Know You" Night—Sept. 23 from 4 to 9 pm

A joyful gathering to build connection and get to know one another

Dana Schwendeman, Director of Youth Ministry

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

www.instagram.com/bumcyouthmin

*Opportunities for people of all ages and stages to grow in faith at their own pace and on their own schedule—
Sunday mornings and throughout the week!*

Adult and Youth Sunday School



Spiritual Gifts

Who loves to get a gift? Who loves to give gifts? One of the reasons we love to give gifts is because we think about what makes the recipient so special and carefully choose a gift that is unique to them, perhaps the gift we choose is something they can use in their hobby or special interest. We're excited to see how they will respond to and use the gift and we hope that they do indeed use it and enjoy it.

As I think about this, I can't help but think about the spiritual gifts that God chose to bless each of us with based on how we were uniquely made and crafted. I imagine God gets excited about

blessing us with our 'unique-to-us' spiritual gifts and seeing us use them.

We have the opportunity to join together and work toward discerning our own particular spiritual gifts that we have been blessed with. How do we honor God by using these gifts in the world? We can talk about that too! Class will begin September 18 at 9:30 and meet in the Chapel.

If you are not yet feeling comfortable with in-person classes or find yourself traveling this fall, this class will have an at-home option, too. Do it at your own pace, then join the conversation with the larger group (either in person or on Zoom) after we identify our gifts.

- Jenny Gee, Director of Education

Sunday Morning Classes for Kids

Our children will gather in their classrooms with loving teachers who are excited to share messages of wonderful news about God. Our preschool and Kindergarteners will learn Old Testament characters this fall and hear messages like: God is always with us, God knows us inside and out and God's love changes our lives. Kids in 1st through 4th will meet up with each other and their skilled and awesome teachers to learn all about how special and loved they are. This year we will start with the story of Joseph with the message that whether we are sad, or mad or happy... God is there! What could be more amazing than that? Plan to attend your own class while your child attends theirs.

Sprouts... it's different from Sunday School but still awesome

During the 10:30 worship service, just after Children's Moment, Jenny will take the children to the 4th floor for Sprouts. Have you ever wondered what goes on in there?! It's a ton of fun. We choose one character out of the Bible each week, we learn about him or her, and how God showed God's-self to that person. We have great conversation and we make a little paper craft. Folks who have not been part of Sprouts wonder why we bother with these old fashioned paper folding crafts... well, it's

because this is the time that some really great questions are asked and discussed. We have a big range of ages in Sprouts, from preschoolers to 6th graders (and up). Often once a child 'ages-out' they continue to attend and be a pair of helping hands. And they continue to ask good questions. The younger children learn that it is never wrong to wonder and ask 'why?' in this church, it is encouraged and seen as the only way we can actually grow in our relationship with God. Plan to have your child attend Sprouts this fall. My guess is, they will love it!

Missing a Sunday? Your family does not need to miss all that Sunday school offered. Jenny will check in via Facebook Live around 11:30 on Sunday mornings with a summary of what we did and questions or activities you can do as a family to continue your growth in your faith. It will be available for you any time during the week.

Third Grade Bible Sunday—September 18

One of the wonderful traditions in this church is Third Grade Bible Sunday, when third graders receive their very own Bibles to take home and use and learn how God is still speaking to them through the scriptures. Don't miss this very special day— Sunday, September 18 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Want to sponsor a Bible or write a note to one of the children receiving a Bible? Contact Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com.

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



MILESTONES

News of the church family

E-mail or phone Melanie
with news to share!

office@brecksvilleumc.com

440-526-8938

Three long time members of our church family moved on to the church triumphant recently.

On August 5, we lost two longtime members. **Bob Tschannen** passed away just a few days shy of his 100th birthday. Bob joined our church family in 1963 and will long be remembered for all of the ways he served this community, big and small. He was an active church leader and a dear friend to many. We give thanks for his long and beautiful life.

Heaven also welcomed **Carl Opatrny** that day. Carl joined our church family in 1972. An engineer, Carl was very active in our city's government and was instrumental in many of the improvements to our city over the years. Please join us in surrounding his wife, Mary Jane, and his whole family, including his sister and brother-in-law, Gail & Doug Huth, in your prayers.

Gladys Smith died on Saturday, August 20 at the age of 97. She joined our church in 1964, and until very recently, lived next door at Chippewa Place. Please keep her daughters, Barbara and Nancy, in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their beloved mother and celebrate her life well lived.

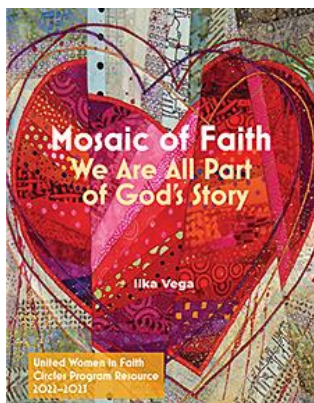


**United
Women
in Faith**

faith

action

sisterhood



A new year begins, with a new name!

The first meeting of Brecksville United Women in Faith (formerly the United Methodist Women) is scheduled for Thursday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. The Eve Circle, a service oriented group which meets in the evenings throughout the year, will join us as our 2022-2023 season kicks off. You will receive more details from the church

soon by special emails so be on the look-out!

The United Women in Faith theme this year is: Mosaic of Faith, We are All Part of God's Story. We see this as an invitation to reclaim and explore our identity as children of God and as a community of women of faith.



Asbury Bremeth Circle

A study group for women. Meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Begins September 8 at 9:30am

Have you ever wondered about other Christian denominations and what the differences in beliefs are? That will be the focus of this year's Asbury Bremeth Study. All women are invited to join us for a study of Adam Hamilton's *Christianity's Family Tree*. We will learn a little about the history, major beliefs, and what we can learn from these different traditions. Invite a friend and join us on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 in the Parlor.

Want to keep up on all the latest from this group?

Join the Brecksville United Women In Faith email list!

Email UWIF@Brecksvilleumc.com



DETERMINED SERVICE



Fall Kick Off Is More than a Joyful Gathering

There are also opportunities to serve, welcome, and love your neighbor!

Serve—Help is needed with set up, serving and clean up for the event. Have a truck? Willing to help move tables and chairs to the square? There is something for folks of all abilities to help with. If you can help, please reach out to Lynn Hobzek or call the office 440-526-8938.

Welcome—We're inviting folks from our community to the event, including a 25 member concert band! Would you be willing to be a host at an information table to answer people's questions about the church? Please call the office!

Love Your Neighbor—When Nehemiah Mission, an East Ohio Conference Mission in the City of Cleveland reached out and said that the children they serve need socks and shoes, we thought “that’s a perfect mission for Fall Kick Off!” If you’re able, purchase new socks (youth medium or large sizes) or shoes (in older youth sizes 5-7) and bring them to the church lobby.

We didn't feel ready for the return of the potluck, believing that catered food would allow the event to be more welcoming to everyone in a time of continued pandemic precautions. **PLEASE RSVP so there will be enough food!** There is a reply form in this newsletter—or you can sign up online at BUMClinks.com, call the office, or signup at church.

We do not want price to be a barrier to anyone — and really want everyone to be able to come. With the Rocket Car, Kona Ice and Caricatures by Michael Gezze, we're a little over budget again this year. If you are able to donate to help offset the costs, it would be a gift that would help make the event possible for everyone! **Thank you!**

TOP TEN REASONS

TO JOIN THE

CHOIR

1. Your shower singing will definitely improve.
2. You'll have friends to hang out with every Thursday. (Join with your significant other and make it a weekly date night!)
3. You can lower your blood pressure. Singing's good for your heart and soul!
4. Praising God through singing is a special joy!
5. You will develop new skills.
6. You will be an active participant in worship.
7. You will connect with other people and build lasting friendships.
8. You will get to know people from different generations.
9. You be able to see the whole congregation - even the people who sit way in the back!
10. You'll experience love. It's what makes a church choir: love of music, love for each other, and especially love of God!

Rehearsals begin Thursday, September 1 at 6:30 pm

Want to learn more? Have scheduling conflicts? Machala would love to talk to you!

Email machala@brecksvilleumc.com or call or text (216) 421-4159.

BIKE FIX IT DAY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
9 AM – NOON IN FELLOWSHIP HALL





COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

Road Trippin' with Inclusion Task Force

There may have been a torrential downpour the night of May 21st, but that didn't stop Deanne Kloss and Linda Crouch from taking a road trip to Lakewood Congregational Church to hear The Blazing River Freedom Band, Cleveland's LGBT+ and ally concert and marching band. Deanne's car, Charlotte Rose Victoria (yes, it's a CRV) got them there safely, and the concert was well worth the white knuckled drive. There is nothing like good live music, plus it was just plain fun to hear the approximately 15 very well rehearsed musicians as they played the Music of Broadway. You can also have the pleasure of hearing them play (without the scary drive...) at the Fall Kick Off! You just need to walk over to the square and listen as these talented volunteer performers play a new selection of songs while you enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship.— *Deanne Kloss, Inclusion Task Force*

“What is Disaffiliation?”

You may have heard about two large United Methodist churches in Texas choosing to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church. And as The United Methodist Church continues to “splinter,” with some churches choosing to disaffiliate (leave) and others choosing to stay, we will continue to hear of these happenings.



The EOC includes 10 districts. We are in the North Coast District.

Disaffiliation is a process that some churches are choosing to explore and work through if they feel their beliefs no longer fit into the “big tent” of United Methodism. These churches are on the “extremes” of either end of the conservative/progressive spectrum, particularly in regards to LGBTQ+ inclusion and how it relates to biblical interpretation. I can confidently say that this congregation is somewhere in the “middle.” So, disaffiliation is not something with which we at BUMC need to concern ourselves at this time.

There is a basic disaffiliation process set out in The United Methodist Book of Discipline, and then each Annual Conference can choose to add stipulations to that. Our Annual Conference has not added any stipulations, and our Bishop and Cabinet have set out a clear process for disaffiliation discernment and shared it with pastors and churches. (It can be found on our Conference website: <https://www.eocumc.com/disaffiliation/index.html>.) Our Conference has also trained a group of individuals to prayerfully lead churches through this discernment process. The process is not necessarily “easy” (disaffiliation is a weighty decision to make and should not be done lightly), but it's also not unnecessarily difficult.

There were 11 churches in our Conference who went through the proper steps for disaffiliation prior to voting at this year's Annual Conference. There will possibly be a similar number of churches who disaffiliate in 2023. This is out of over 600 churches in the East Ohio Conference. I encourage you to pray for the churches who have chosen to disaffiliate from The UMC, as well as those who are currently in the process of discernment.

I'm happy to talk with anyone who has questions about what is going on in the greater Church, or what any of this might mean for BUMC. My intention is never to “hide” anything, but I also don't want to alarm people. While we are affected by the greater UMC, the postponement of General Conference to 2024 means any major decisions are years in the future. I encourage us to keep our current focus on how God is calling us to live out our mission of **creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.** - *Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor*

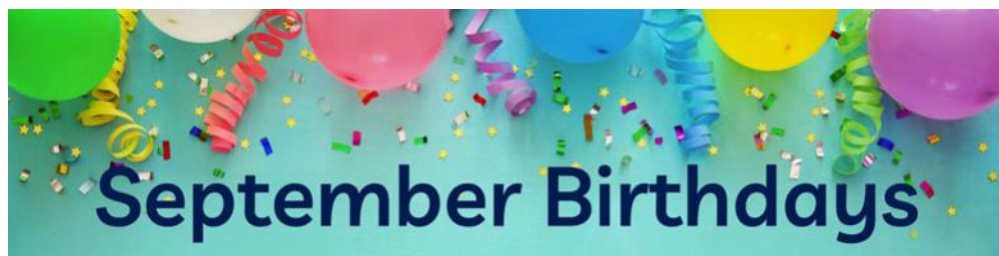
In God we all belong.

SAVE THE DATE!
Cleveland Pride Ride

Saturday, October 8

Sign up at [BUMCLinks.com](https://www.bumclinks.com)

inclusion@brecksvilleumc.com



1 Samantha Bellone	10 Tonya Boldt	24 Anne Rosenthal
1 Alan Jones	10 Jackie Daugherty	26 Brett Hubert
1 Mary Kaminski	10 Travis Papesh	26 Owen Paroda
1 Elizabeth Mathewson	10 Matthew Robusto	26 Austin Pribble
2 David Hurder	11 Jinho Lee	26 Jeff Schillo
3 Ann Rittman	12 Abigail Jaite	27 Kathy Holmes
4 Luke Dorman	13 Jessica Vastartis	27 Annie Madaus
4 Marilyn Huber	14 Doug Huth	27 Jeannie McBride
4 Augie Mihalek	16 Claire Hayes	28 Matt Harper
4 Tim Miller	17 Kathy Bartholomew	28 Mary Jane Matts Slifcak
5 Harry Wilson	17 Ash Watkins	29 Matt Harper
6 Dana Schwendeman	18 Charles Wilson	29 Amy Magee
6 Mariella Siemer	19 Joshua Stacher	29 Cameron Richardson
6 David Teare	19 Emily Vastartis	30 Kaiya Crouch
8 Max Mellott	19 Meredith Weber	30 Ella Davis
8 Quinn Slifcak	20 Claire Kenney	30 Craig Kotnik
9 Alvin Hahn	20 James Patrick	
9 Joe Hurst	21 Audrey Fowler	
9 Jennifer Mathewson	23 Gianna Hricko	
9 Ellie Ritterbusch	23 Emma Sak	
9 Sandy Whitton		



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. The Missions & Outreach Committee had a great idea — get a picnic table for the church grounds, as an invitation for folks to stop

and gather here in nice weather months, and as an outreach to the construction crew who will be working in front of the church for several weeks. Kathy and Matt Auble sprung into action, finding a nice, used table online, picking it up, assembling it and sprucing it up. (It’s on the east lawn, near the bike patio.

Come check it out!) Speaking of construction, Jason Hockran, Pastor at Andover United Methodist Church is one of the managers of the project. He stopped by a staff meeting and thanked us for our hospitality and answered questions about the project. Kara Samblanet and Michelle Botzman and family stepped in to help with Children’s Moment and Sprouts when Jenny was away. Thank you for sharing God’s love with our kids! Leisa Scott has stepped out of her comfort zone and volunteered as an usher. Ask her about that experience. Is it something you’d like to try, too? We’re thankful for every one of you, and lift up prayers of thanks for all of you, named and unnamed!



SEPTEMBER

Notes & 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 September 4

Don & Beryl Burkle

3464 Logwood Trl

Richfield, OH 44286-9359

Week of September 11

**Joyce & Carl
Rossborough**

4386 Hunters Chase Ln

Wooster, OH 44691-7303

Week of September 18

Robin Raybuck

2365 Barnsley Way

Broadview Hts., OH 44147-3674

Week of September 25

Mary Jane Opatrny

7768 Coachman Ct

Brecksville, OH 44141-1016

Do you know someone who would enjoy getting some love in their mailbox? Contact Pastor Barbara to nominate someone for the list!



The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365, connecting those experiencing a mental health, substance use, or suicidal crisis with trained crisis counselors.

Moving to an easy-to-remember, 3-digit number will provide greater access to life-saving services.

On July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) transitioned to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Ohioans who are experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, and their family members, will be able to call, chat, or text the 988 number in order to reach a trained counselor who can offer help and support.

In 2020, the U.S. had one death by suicide every 11 minutes. Suicide is the leading cause of death for people ages 10–34. Behind each of these data points, there are people, families and communities who have been impacted.

Yet there is hope. The 988 Lifeline helps struggling people overcome suicidal crisis or mental-health related distress every day. Call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org for yourself or if you are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. 988 serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live in the United States, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help.

It's OK if you struggle with mental and emotional health. And it's OK to ask for help. Learn more by visiting Ohio's mental healthcare website at mha.ohio.gov or call the Ohio CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.



RELATIONSHIPS

Tips for making friends at any age

After years of pandemic isolation, many of us are yearning for new connections. Are you finding it hard to get back into the habit of cultivating friendships? Try these tips:

Love Like Jesus. Work on seeing others through God's eyes. Your new friend may be a person of a different generation, who votes a different way or lives in a different town. Resist the urge to label other people and your field of potential friends becomes all children of God. (That's everyone you meet!)

Put Down the Phone. Resist the urge to scroll when you're out in public. Look up, look around, and smile. Engage with the world and you may make new contacts to add to your phone later!

Give yourself an A for Effort. If you step out of your comfort zone, put yourself out there and say "hello" and it just falls flat? Don't get down. Congratulate yourself for trying.

Join a Group. A perfect place to try that is at church! Look for a book study or class that looks interesting, join the choir, or volunteer for a service project or committee. If you'd like to meet people with a common interest, start a small group. These are all great opportunities to build lasting connections.

Reach Out To Your Old Friends. Missing someone from childhood, school, or a previous job? It's easier than ever to connect again, even if you live miles away from one another. Pick up the phone. Schedule a video call. Plan a get together.

Set up a "Friend Date." Ask a potential new friend out for coffee, for a walk, or to do an activity you both enjoy. Spending leisurely time together is an important element of friendship building.

Say "yes" and show up. Not excited about attending your spouse's work party? Less than thrilled about your second cousin's baby-shower? Not sure you'll like that Bible study? Invited to an event at your child's school but feeling shy about it? Go anyway! To make friends, you need to get out of your house and go where the people are. Give yourself the opportunity to meet new friends.

Set friendship goals. Do you have friends that you just don't see as often as you'd like? You might set a goal of getting together once a month. Maybe you could challenge yourself to try one of the tips in this list once a week. Pick a goal and celebrate when you reach it.

Don't overlook people you know. Your new best friend may just be that person you see at church, at work, or at school. Reach out and invite them to hang out. You never know what may happen!

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
THREE SIMPLE RULES SERMON SERIES - BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18   				1 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 7 SAS Meeting 8 Band	2 7 Coffee for Teachers 	3 8:30 Western Reserve Emmaus Lay Directors' Meeting
4 8 Wiggle Room Opens 8:30 Worship 9:30 Lemonade! 10 Worship	5 Labor Day—Church Offices Closed	6 1st day of school for BBH 10:30 Staff Mtg 1:30 Communion at Chippewa Pl 7 Lectio	7 6:30 Breakfast 6:30 UMW & Eve Circle Combined Meeting	8 9:30 FB Live 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:30 Choir 7:30 Nom. Cm. 8 Band	9 Learn about God's Amazing Creation with Jenny on Facebook Live—Fridays around noon! 	10
11 8 Wiggle Room Opens 8:30 Worship 10 Worship 11:15 Fall Kick Off Party!	12 10:30 Lectio 6 Cardio	13 10:30 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio	14 6:30 Breakfast 7 Church Council Meeting	15 Good Word Deadline! 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	16	17 8:30 Emmaus 9—noon Bike Fix It Day! 
18 New Worship Times Begin! Bible Sunday 8 Wiggle Rm 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	19 10:30 Lectio 6 Cardio	20 10 Stitch'n'Time 10:30 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio 7 Inclusion Task Force 7 Trustees	21 6:30 Breakfast 7 Church Town Hall Meeting	22 9:30 FB Live 10 Newsletter Production Party 6:30 Choir 8 Band	23	24 8:30 MedWorks Clinic Virtual Telehealth
25 8 Wiggle Rm 8:30 Worship 9:30 Joyful Gathering & Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	26 10:30 Lectio 6 Cardio	27 10:30 Staff Mtg 7 Lectio 7 Inclusion Task Force 7 Finance	28 6:30 Breakfast	29 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 8 Band	30 9:30 UMW Board Meeting	

VISIT WWW.BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM FOR DETAILS AND UPDATES



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

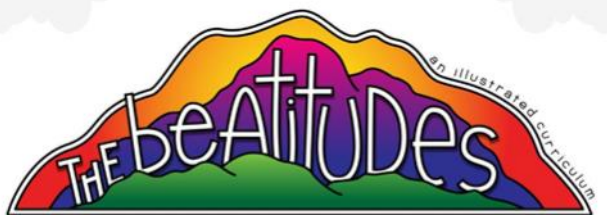
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Church Office Hours

Monday—Friday
9:15 am — 2:15 pm
440-526-8938
info@brecksvilleumc.com




YOUTH GROUP
IS FOR ALL STUDENTS
6TH GRADE & UP

SEPTEMBER 18 & 25

Sundays at 5 pm
on the church lawn
youth@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.



All are welcome and invited to the
Brecksville United Methodist Church

JOYFUL GATHERING

Fall Kick Off

ON BRECKSVILLE SQUARE

WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 AND 10 AM
PICNIC AT 11:15

SEPT 11*

RSVP Today!

65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE, OH

BUMCLINKS.COM

FOOD BY FARMER'S FEAST



EUCLID BEACH ROCKET CAR • CARICATURES BY MICHAEL GEZZE
BLAZING RIVER FREEDOM BAND • KONA ICE TRUCK

Bring your Friends & Family!

PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 7

***RAIN DATE SEPT 18**

BUMClinks.com • 440-526-8938 • RSVP@Brecksvilleumc.com



It's a Brecksville UMC family reunion!

FOOD BY FARMER'S FEAST



It's a Farmer's Feast Picnic! Featuring pulled pork & chicken, sweet potato salad, cole slaw, mac & cheese, roasted veggies and a vegetarian/vegan option

EUCLID BEACH ROCKET CAR

Zip around the streets of Brecksville with a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket car, here from 11 to 1:30.



CARICATURES BY MICHAEL GEZZE

New this year! Mike Gezze will be here to sketch your likeness. How fun is that?



KONA ICE TRUCK

A taste of the islands extends the summer!

PHOTOGRAPHS

When family and friends are together, it's the perfect time to get your picture taken. Prints available at church 9.18.



BLAZING RIVER FREEDOM BAND

Enjoy music from Cleveland's LGBTQ+ and Allies marching and concert band.



SOCK & SHOE DRIVE KICKS OFF!

Branch out in service by helping provide socks & shoes for those served by Nehemiah Mission in CLE.



OTHER DELIGHTS

There will be yard games, People Bingo, and other surprises!



Bring your friends!



PLEASE RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 7

Suggested donation \$12 +

We know times are tight for many right now. If you can't afford to pitch in, that's OK - come enjoy! If you are in the position to give more, consider an additional donation with your RSVP.

Name(s) _____

_____ NUMBER ATTENDING _____ NUMBER OF VEGAN MEALS NEEDED

☐ I CAN HELP SET UP ☐ I CAN HELP CLEAN UP

Checks payable to BUMC. Pay online: <https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/KickOff>

Return this coupon to church or reply online, by phone or by email -

BUMClinks.com ● 440-526-8938 ● RSVP@Brecksvilleumc.com