

The Good Word

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

The Season of Lent Begins

Our Lenten series will focus on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples, Peter, a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves.

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 14

Service at 7 pm - in the Sanctuary and Online

"Tune my heart" PSALM 51:1-17 As we begin the season, let us turn inward and tune our hearts. Before an orchestra plays together, they must all tune their instruments—the cacophony of this process may be very loud and create lots of dissonance, but it's a necessary step in the process of creating harmonies and melodies. And so, this Lent, how can you tune the instrument of your heart so that it aligns with God?

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - FEBRUARY 18

"Jesus Sought Me" LUKE 5:1-11 The fish represents God's abundant provision of sustenance and grace, as well as Peter's shift in vocation and calling - from fisher of fish to fisher of people.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - FEBRUARY 25

"Rescue Me From Danger" MATTHEW 14:22-33 In this story, we empathize with the desperation Peter feels as he cries out, and we pray for God to save us when we sink.

Charting our course together.

Our Leadership Board had its first meeting in January, and what used to be only theoretical, is now very real. We had great discussion around goals, finances, and communicating who we are and what we need at Brecksville UMC. Their passion for the people of our church community was palpable, and it left me excited for the future! (Learn more about them inside.)

At the same time, it was an important reminder that the Church—the body of Christ—is a volunteer organization (organism?): we need each and every community member to do their part for this to work.

Two of our goals for 2024 (created by the Staff Parish Relations Committee last year, and adopted by Leadership Board in January) are:

1. Fully transition to our new governance structure, and
2. Create three new opportunities for fellowship and connection.

Continues on next page

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...Charting Our Course Together, Continued from page one

Our January Leadership Board meeting was a great start to achieving our first goal. However, the Leadership Board itself is only one part of the new governance structure. Leadership Board sets the goals and mission, but then Ministry Teams discern how to best achieve those goals and live out our mission of creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another. And the only way Ministry Teams will work well is if people who are passionate about a ministry are empowered to make decisions and implement ideas that lead us towards our collective goal.

Also, we realize that as we continue to grow as a community, (with new people worshipping with us each week!) it's integral that we focus on creating opportunities to get to know one another and cultivate meaningful relationships. This will also help us be more inclined to volunteer, because we're spending time with friends!

Interwoven through all of this is the importance of getting to know ourselves better, and the way God created us—our unique gifts, passions, and how our experiences have shaped us. That's where one of our long-term goals comes in: helping people discover their spiritual gifts and providing avenues to grow those gifts.

Learning about ourselves helps us to discern where we fit into the body of Christ that is Brecksville United Methodist Church. If we're a metaphorical hand and we're trying to do the work of a foot, it won't be long before our efforts land us firmly on our face. But when we learn and embrace all the gifts and graces of a "hand," then we can live out our passions and grow our gifts in Ministry Teams, and find others with similar or complimentary passions... creating stronger relationships with one another. (See how it all works together??)

In this newsletter, you'll find a growing list of Ministry Teams so you can discern what team(s) you would like to try, as well as all sorts of opportunities to grow and learn more about yourself. As we continue to work towards our goals, look for more specific opportunities to learn your God-given strengths and embrace who God created you to be!

Because we need you and all your "you-ness" to continue to make BUMC a unique and life-transforming Body of Christ so that the world might know of God's unconditional love!

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Brecksville United Methodist Church

NAMES TO FACES

EVENT!

SUNDAY → **FEBRUARY 4 AT NOON**

FOOD, FRIENDS, AND FUN IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP AT BUMCLINKS.COM



Brecksville UMC Leadership Board 2024

Eric Louttit, Carolyn Jatsek, Zane Burgstahler, Julie Kubek, Matt Gabor, Kristi Eberhardt, Jim Slagle, Alan Scheufler, Deb Watkins, and Rev. Heidi Welch

Leadership Board Kicks Off

As we begin the new Leadership Board governance model, we want to assure everyone that the Board members are completely dedicated to the well-being of our Congregation. That includes finding ways to always care for and love our long-standing Church Family members, and also welcome with open hearts our many new-comers.

We know that the Word of God always was, is, and will be the same. Yet our Congregation needs to nimbly respond to a world that is changing at light speed. We need to find ways to spread the Word of God, and help make it relevant to the lives of those who have never heard it before.

One new practice in 2024 is the Leadership Board Covenant (see next page). There our Board members covenant to each other, and to our Congregation, how we will support our Church Family. We ask for your prayers as we all start this journey together.

But the most important thing is this. BUMC has a long history of our Church Family stepping forward to actively participate in our ministries, missions, programs and activities. Your continued active participation is absolutely critical for BUMC to remain alive and vital in our community and the world.

The new **Ministry Teams** (see page 5) are how we all will carry forward that active participation. Look over the list, decide where your gifts and skills can best be used, and call or email the church to volunteer. If Pastor Heidi, a Church Staff Member, or another BUMC Member invites you to participate on a Ministry Team, we hope your answer is **“YES”!**

Let's all 'get off our donkeys' just like the Good Samaritan, and be a true neighbor to others (Luke 10:30-37). Let's all show our Christian love by participating on one or more Ministry Teams in 2024! - *Alan Scheufler, Chair, Leadership Board*

Getting to Know the Leadership Board

Zane Burgstahler began attending remotely in 2020. He and his wife, Rebecca, joined the church in April 2023. “Our family identified and felt at home with the values of BUMC. We stay for the opportunity to live out those values alongside the great people of BUMC!” Zane & Rebecca have been married for almost 18 years and have three children, Hannah, Theo, and Claire. He is excited to participate in the Missions & Community Engagement Team. What's his favorite potluck dish? Zane said it would have to be either taco casserole or deviled eggs!

Kristi Eberhardt joined our church in 2004. “The sense of community, family and belonging are why I joined. I stay for those reasons and BUMC's focus on mission, justice and inclusion.” She's excited to serve on the Welcome, Coffee Hour and the A/V Teams. Kristi has two children, Sam and Ben, both baptized and confirmed in the church. Ben was even baby Jesus one Christmas Eve! You may often see Kristi with her wonderful partner, Brian. What's Kristi's favorite potluck dish? “JELL-O squares, but definitely not the wiggly Jiggler type. The firm variety that you get by adding several envelopes of Knox gelatin. My mom often made them when I was a kid and always think of her when I make them. Simple to make and fun for all.”

Matt Gabor started attending our church virtually in 2020 and began attending regularly at our outdoor worship in the Spring of 2021. He and his husband, Max, became members officially in early 2022, and their daughter, Magnolia, was baptized here in 2023. Matt said, “I attended church as a child, but as an adult I struggled to find a church home. When I came out as gay I no longer felt safe visiting or was told I didn't belong. The faith I learned as a child was

LEADERSHIP BOARD COVENANT - 2024

Brecksville United Methodist Church

As members of the Leadership Board for Brecksville United Methodist Church (BUMC), each of us pledges as follows:

Life as Christians

1. I will live my life as a faithful disciple of Christ and seek ways to continue to grow in my Christian faith through regular church attendance, daily prayer, and other spiritual practices, including honest worship, joyful gathering, lifelong learning, courageous inclusion, and determined service.

Members of Brecksville United Methodist Church

2. I will support the Mission of the United Methodist Church to help make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news, and the mission of BUMC to help create safe spaces to grow with God and one another, and openly sharing our faith with others in a secular world.

3. I will be an active member of BUMC through my faithful attendance, tithing or moving toward a tithe, my involvement in church activities, and my participation in ministries of BUMC.

4. I will keep my fellow leadership board members, our church staff, and our church community in our daily prayers.

Members of Leadership Board

5. I recognize that as a Leadership Board, we have a fiduciary responsibility to be good stewards of BUMC's resources.

6. I understand that as a Leadership Board our responsibility is governance and policy making. It is not management or implementation of ministries or programs. We will empower the Senior Pastor to manage the church staff and volunteers. We will empower and enthusiastically support the Pastor, the staff, and the ministry teams to carry out the mission and ministry of the church without our micromanagement.

7. I will invest in conversations and decisions with vigor and passion. However, once the Leadership Board has come to a decision, I will openly and publicly support the decision of the Leadership Board, even if I didn't personally agree with the decision, because I trust the judgment of my fellow board members and recognize the importance of speaking with a unified voice.

8. From time to time, matters which require confidentiality will come before the Leadership Board, often involving personnel, legal, or real estate matters. I promise to maintain this confidentiality.

9. I recognize the importance of communication. We will conclude each board meeting by identifying how to communicate important decisions with the congregation. Throughout the year, I will actively listen to the concerns of our congregation and our staff.

10. I will endeavor to attend all leadership board meetings in person unless I am out of town or ill. If I am unable to attend in person, I will participate by Zoom or other means of video conferencing. I will attend the meetings on time and will give my undivided attention during the entire meeting.

11. I will attend the annual strategic ministry planning retreat. I understand this is a foundational piece of the Leadership Board's work and will make every effort to be fully present for the entire retreat.

12. If I miss more than three meetings in a year, or am otherwise unable to fully meet my responsibilities as a Leadership Board member, I will converse with the Leadership Board Chair to discuss whether my seat should be vacated and filled by someone who can be more active.

13. Prior to each meeting, I will review the meeting packet and come fully prepared and ready to participate. If I have questions about information in the meeting packet, I will endeavor, if possible, to obtain answers or clarification prior to the meeting.

14. I will participate, alongside other church members, on one or more ministry teams involved in the ministry of BUMC, and will invite and encourage fellow congregation members to participate in individual ministry teams and missions which fit their gifts and talents.

15. The Simplified Accountability Structure of the Leadership Board is designed to increase supportive and productive accountability. I will work with my fellow board members to help hold each other and our pastor accountable to BUMC's mission, vision, and goals, as well as this covenant.

Signed January 11, 2023 Zane Burgstahler, Kristi Eberhardt, Matt Gabor, Carolyn Jatsek, Julie Kubeke, Eric Louttit, Alan Scheufler, Jim Slagle, Deb Watkins, Rev. Heidi Welch

Want to make a positive difference in 2024? Join A Ministry Team!

Use your God-given strengths and gifts to serve God through BUMC. Help fulfill our mission of *creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another*. Choose a team with a long-term or short-term focus. Join a team at any point throughout the year—and drop off when you need to. This list is ever-expanding, as we recognize needs! Look for more information in future newsletters and other communication streams! ***Fill out the [Google Form on BUMCLinks.com](#)—complete this form—or contact the church office to join a team!***

- ☐ **Building Maintenance Team**—works with our Facility Managers to maintain the church building. If you like to help fix things, this Team could use your expertise to care for our church home!
- ☐ **Grounds Maintenance Team**—works with our Facility Managers to maintain the church grounds. Do you like yard work and are committed to caring for God’s creation around our building? This Team is for you!
- ☐ **Parsonage Maintenance**—works to maintain the church parsonage. If you like to help fix things around the house, this Team could use your expertise to care for our pastor’s home!
- ☐ **Missions & Community Engagement Team**—brainstorms ideas for connecting with our local communities and serving others locally, nationally & internationally. They have the honor and responsibility of prayerfully spending the annual Missions budget.
- ☐ **Joyful Gathering Team**— (formerly Fellowship Committee) They plan a few different opportunities for community building and fun for our church family throughout the year. There will be opportunities to participate in short-term teams specific to large events (i.e. Fall Kick-Off).
- ☐ **Coffee Hour Team**—helps create an atmosphere of joy and connection in our Parlor during the 9:30 hour on Sunday mornings. From brewing coffee to washing mugs; making (or buying) pastries & fruit; to creating a fun playlist, this team is all about joyful gathering.
- ☐ **Welcome Team**—for those who love to make people feel welcome and loved on a Sunday morning. Sign up for one Sunday a month, and get “all the answers” so you can make each person who walks in our doors feel cared for.
- ☐ **Funeral Team**—is called upon when we host a funeral service and/or luncheon at our church. They help with anything from greeting people prior to the service, to setting up and taking down tables and chairs, to serving a meal.
- ☐ **Stewardship Team**—works with the Leadership Board to communicate how we are being stewards of the money we have been given, ensuring Stewardship isn’t just a “season” in the church, but something we think about all year long.
- ☐ **Audit Team**—works with our Business Manager to do the annual financial audit. Like numbers and details? This Team is for you!
- ☐ **Budget Team**—works with our Business Manager to help set the annual budget for the upcoming year. If you like numbers and listening to God for how God would have us impact the world, this Team is for you!
- ☐ **Worship Arts Team**—will work with Pastor Heidi and staff members to help enhance the visual aesthetics of our worship spaces in order to help people both in-person and online connect with our worship series.
- ☐ **AV Team**—works with our Technical Media Director to run sound, slides, and cameras for worship services. Or, help create videos to highlight ministry areas and events!

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

strongly telling me to look again when we relocated to Broadview Heights in 2020. I found BUMC online and immediately felt a connection. Hearing and seeing through actions that the doors really were open and I could find love and acceptance here, I knew it was the place for our family. I stay because it is home, we have formed lasting relationships with many of our fellow members and I can see what we do makes a difference to others and our community. I love feeling part of it.” Matt is excited about serving on the Missions and Community Engagement Team and the Joyful Gathering team. One boring thing about Matt? “I crochet blankets—very slowly. Takes about 8 months to finish one. I do it in the evenings. Each one gets a little better.”

Julie Kubek joined the church in 1998. “27 years ago, Mike and I had just gotten married and we were church shopping. We went to several churches in the area and decided that this was our home because the people were so welcoming and it just felt ‘right’! I was actively involved in a Methodist church in the small town where I grew up. Because of my background, BUMC has always felt like home to me. It has been a wonderful place to grow in my faith as an individual, as a couple and to raise our children. As a church body, we are always seeking to find new ways to connect to God and each other. This sometimes involves asking tough questions and having tough conversations. I love and admire that we are willing to do that! I am excited to participate in the Welcome and the Missions & Community Engagement teams. My family is my greatest joy in my life! Michael and have three children--Kristen, 22, working at Macy's corporate office in NYC; Carly, 21, at BGSU studying to be a teacher; and Andrew, a senior at BBHHS training in the EMT/Fire program at CVCC. One boring thing about me? I am a real homebody. Coffee, tea, a good book, my fuzzy white blanket, my dog, Buddy, at my side...what could be better?!”

Eric Louttit moved to Brecksville in 2004 and has been attending BUMC ever since. “My wife Kathy and I have found BUMC to be very friendly and welcoming ever since we first started attending. We also appreciate the fact that we are an inclusive church, not just in word but in action. We stay because we have so many friends here.” Kathy and Eric like to help at Pearl Road dinners, and Eric will continue to help with Finance needs at the church. The Louttits have 2 daughters, Megan and Sara, and a dog, Maisey. When we

Continues on page 9...

It's All About Relationships

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, taught three General Rules :

1. Do no harm by avoiding evil of every kind.
2. Do good as often as you can to as many as you can (to their bodies and to their souls).
3. **Practice the means of grace** taught to the disciples by Jesus.

What are means of grace? They are divided into works of mercy and works of piety. Outward and inward discipleship. Let's look at the outward. Those works of mercy that John Wesley taught and encouraged are actions. They require us to go outside. People not of our faith will see these. Regardless of their acceptance of Christianity in general or United Methodism in particular, people can't help but see these as actions that help humanity. Look at these works and consider how you, our church and your family can make a positive impact on your community.

Feeding the hungry—Who in our community is at risk of hunger? Who can join you – or whom can you join – to help them? **Clothing the naked**—Can you supply warm coats or jackets to people whose clothing is inadequate for the weather? **Caring for the sick**—Can you drive people to doctor appointments or provide respite care? **Welcoming the stranger**—Can you befriend a lonely newcomer to your town who needs a friend? Consider joining the Congregational Care Team! **Visiting those in prison**—Can you sit and talk with someone incarcerated, proving they aren't forgotten? **Advocate for justice**—if you'd like to help make systemic change, consider learning more about Greater Cleveland Congregations.

Peacemaking—Can you begin with something as simple as walking through a neighborhood outside your own to see all the people and just start conversations? **Serving the common good**—Can you think of something, just one thing, you can do that will help everyone?

All of these works of mercy involve being in a relationship. You can do it. Get out there and show people the works of Jesus.

Adapted from *Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church*—See AllThePeople.org



Sunday at the Movies

Kids in preschool through 6th grade can join together to watch *The Princess and the Frog* as our February movie of the month. Over the four Sundays of February, we will learn about the importance of family, friends and love! The movie is set in New Orleans and the mystical bayous that surround it. Who knows, you even may get to celebrate a fun Sunday school focused Mardi Gras! *There are age specific options for kids every Sunday at both 9:30 and 10:30. Email jenny@brecksvilleumc.com to learn more!*



Podcast Class *Sundays at 9:30, Room 301*

Adults & teens—join the conversation! Listen to a podcast on the theme of the upcoming Sunday's sermon and then get together with other folks from church to talk about it. What can we learn as people of faith? In person or via Zoom! Sign up at BUMCLinks.com or contact the office for updates, or just drop in anytime.



Simon Peter

He left everything to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of Simon Peter! Join Jenny and friends for the six weeks of Lent to learn more about Peter—an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. Sundays at 9:30 in the Chapel or online.



UMVIM Team in Puerto Rico. Photo by Lorna Jost, UVM Volunteer

Unnatural Disasters Documentary Series

How are people of faith responding to the climate crisis? "Unnatural Disasters" is a series of three documentaries—created by United Methodists—taking us to places around the country where people are finding creative ways to care for the planet in the midst of devastating disasters. Join the filmmakers, Mariellyn Grace & Rev. Ryan Grace for the discussion! In January, we learned about historic flooding in Detroit.

- Feb 18: Hurricanes in Puerto Rico
- March 17: Wildfires in Northern California

Register at BUMCLinks.com for the Zoom info and join the conversation!



Project Feed Recap On January 14, BUMC youth ministry brought a group of 12 to participate in Project Feed, a mission project sponsored by CCYM in the East Ohio Conference. We traveled to the United Methodist Church of Berea and were joined by many other youth groups from the area. We packed thousands of meals that will travel all over the world through Midwest Mission and provide nourishing, culturally appropriate meals to those in need. As we packed, we chatted about how important it is for the food to have all the good stuff someone would need to grow and thrive, while also allowing them to use it in a way that makes sense for their families. The meals we packed consisted of rice, soy protein, and dried veggies. This is the perfect combination for the base of any meal. Our BUMC group worked together to pack over 1,700 meals during the event and contribute to Project Feed's overall goal. Check out our pictures from the event and join us for upcoming youth mission opportunities! Contact Dana at youth@brecksvilleumc.com for more info!



TRIALS FOR HOPE

BUMC Day of Service
Saturday, Feb. 10
10 am - 2 pm

From assembling unsheltered survival bags to helping organize resources, we can be part of this UMC Mission and help spread more hope and love to people without homes in Greater Cleveland. Sign up now. We will organize a carpool - or meet us on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland.

Register at BUMCLinks.com

Mary Anne and Richard Cavicchi Christian Education Seminar at Rocky River UMC

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 4-7:30 pm - Register by Monday, February 26

Keynote Speaker and Facilitator: Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones

Each one of us desires to make positive change. Whether in our personal lives, in our churches, or in the wider community, we want to leave circumstances better than we have found them. The biblical witness affirms this story: ordinary people, called by God, are catalysts for realizing God's Kin-dom right in their own neighborhoods. Using the tools of grassroots organizing, this seminar will make the case that with God's help and the partnership of our neighbors, we can participate in the transformation of our churches, our neighborhoods and the broader community. We will discover and practice the art of relational meetings; we will unearth the power of community listening; and we will develop a toolkit for breaking down seemingly intractable problems into manageable tasks. This seminar will draw on the work of Robert Linthicum's book, *"Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community,"* and will also include the voices of interfaith community leaders and organizers from Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

On March 3, there are two ways to attend: in person, meal provided, at Rocky River UMC or on Zoom, with breakout discussion groups and a break. There is no cost to attend. Register online at BUMCLinks.com. Registration deadline is Monday, February 26.



United
Women
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

United Women in Faith Learn to De-clutter

De-clutter your Mind and Space—Thursday, 2/1 in the Parlor

This presentation is a wonderful opportunity to look at de-cluttering, not only at the hows and whys of de-cluttering but information about relevant community resources. "When we free ourselves of stuff, we are free to move on and truly enjoy living," says Chris Lotenero, one of the speakers. Her colleague, Peg Shumate, will join her. Learn how they navigated through their own health crisis, and found a way to then enjoy life. Who thought making room in your mind and living space could produce such results. Learn ways to fulfill your life by giving your time, wisdom, and possessions to others and creating memories together!

This presentation will be available on zoom simultaneously. Please email or call melanie@breckskvilleumc.com to let her know you'd like to zoom the event from home. A recording of the program will also be available. Refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m. The presentation follows at 10 am after a short devotional. Business meeting follows after a short break. Find out what we have planned for the rest of the year!



Thank you to Nancy Knowlton & friends for organizing our Christmas potluck in December. Thank you to Pat Frank for playing the piano and Becky Chen for playing her flute for our sing-along. It was beautiful! (Pictured George Smith, Doris Cippolla & Pat Frank)

Congratulations to our 2024 officers: Kathy Sopka - President, Sharon Judson - Vice President, Fran McClean - Finance, and Marilyn Huber - Secretary. Pastor Heidi Welch installed the officers at the potluck. Thank you Pastor Heidi!



The Missions & Community Engagement Team

brainstorms ideas for connecting with our communities and serving others locally, nationally & internationally. They help ensure that there are opportunities for folks to serve as they are able as acts of Christian Love. They also have the honor and responsibility of prayerfully spending the Missions budget. Does this sound like work you could get excited about? Reach out to team leaders Marla Knight or Kathy Auble at Missions@BrecksvilleUMC.com



Bike Fix-It February Edition

February 10 from 9 to noon in the Fellowship Hall

Join a crew of folks that are willing to get their hands dirty and, in the process, help adults who struggle to find reliable transportation, or children who would love to feel the freedom of riding their own bike. The BUMC Bike Ministry accepts donations of used bikes, fix them up once a month and get them into the hands of people who need them. Be part of the fun and enjoy the fellowship, the learning, the satisfaction of a job well done... the donuts and coffee aren't too bad either!



Sew 4 Good & Stitch'n'Time

On the second Monday of each month, **sewists** of all abilities gather in room 301 from 5 pm—9 pm, arriving as their schedule allows, to create for people in need. Projects have included items for nursing homes and blankets for the unhoused. Have skills, or want to learn? Come join us! **Yarn artists** of all abilities are welcome and encouraged to come create on the third Tuesday of each month in the Parlor at 10 am. Questions? Reach out to Sandy Crist. (Contact the office for her number!)



Getting to Know...continued from page 6

asked, “what’s one boring thing about you?” Eric said, “I don’t watch much TV, except for sports. And I haven’t been to a movie in a theater in 5 years!”

Alan Scheufler is a familiar face to many of you. He and his wife, Debbi, have been members here since 1983 and their daughters, Jenny and Beth, grew up here. Alan is no stranger to church leadership, having served on every committee. We’re thankful for your continued leadership, Alan!

Jim Slagle and his wife Heidi are fairly new! “We have been part of BUMC since we moved to the area (Greenwood Village) in July 2021. I am a life-long United Methodist. We appreciate BUMC’s emphasis on mission and life-long learning, as well as its focus on inclusiveness and our excellent pastor. And we like the outdoor service in the summer.” Jim is excited to participate in the Missions and Community Engagement and the Welcome Teams. “And, if BUMC chooses to affiliate with Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), I would be enthused to be part of our GCC core team.” Jim and Heidi have been married for over 40 years. “We have two daughters and a son-in-law in the Cleveland area; a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons in Columbus; and my 97 year old mother-in-law at Brentwood Healthcare Center.” What’s one question Jim wishes someone would ask you? “What is Fair Districts Ohio?”

Deb Watkins, like Alan Scheufler, is a PK—a preacher’s kid. She and her husband, Chris, joined BUMC in 2021, when they officially transferred their membership from Wooster UMC, but they have been part of our church family since 2015. They have three kids, twins Aneira and Bryn and high schooler, Ash. Deb’s mom, Ina, worships with us, too!

The Leadership Board answered questions for this column, and some responses have been edited for brevity.



February

Care and Prayer!

Take a moment to say a prayer of thanks for each of the people on this list, then send them a birthday card to let them know you're thinking of them!

All of our prayer & mail folks have birthdays this month!

Week of February 4

Faith McAllister

21 Poppy Ln
Granville, OH 43023-3200

Week of February 11

Nancy Knowlton

7537 Hillbrook Oval
Brecksville, OH 44141-1935

Week of February 18

Dorothy Jordan

200 Laurel Lake Dr Apt W227
Hudson, OH 44236-2169

Week of February 25

Ruth Hazlett

915 W Aurora Rd
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067

Nominate someone who could use a reminder that they are loved for next month's list!

Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



1 Doris Cipolla	13 Christian Bloch	19 Allie Kenney
1 Grant Kardos	13 Leslie Hoffman	19 Zoey Tormento
2 Douglas Hubert	13 Andrew Kubek	20 Matthew Ling
2 Gail Meyer	13 Mallory McCrodden	20 Dahlia Schadler
3 Colin Johnson	13 Monica (Kotnik) Thelen	21 Emily Gardner
4 Barbara Soltis	14 Lucy Fesler	21 Janet Narduzzi
5 Faith McAllister	14 Dorothy Jordan	22 Dan Rajkovich
5 Lynn Spencer	14 Leisa Scott	22 John Rice
6 Paul Olszko	15 Olive Barnum	22 Steve Warth
7 Chloe Boldt	15 Nathaniel Robusto	23 Erin Gee
7 Greg Spencer	15 Abby Smith	23 Pastor Heidi Welch
8 Becky Chen	16 Matthew Miller	24 Paul Botzman
8 Nancy Knowlton	17 Stephanie Fisher	24 Janet Kleckner
8 Stefanie Zaranec	17 Grace Ford	24 Eric Louttit
9 Chad Boldt	17 Christine Hudacek	25 Ruth Hazlett
9 Chloe Brubaker	17 Danny Lynch	25 Patrick Hehr
9 Sarah Nurre	17 Emma Piorkowski	25 Nancy Wygonski
10 Pam Johnson	18 Scott Campbell	26 Matt Botzman
11 Doug Bender	18 Jack Kenney	27 Angela Harper
12 Marla Hocutt		27 Emily Hastings



Brecksville UMC is a thriving community of faith because of people like you—who care for one another and reach out in service to those who are in need. People like the Botzman family who help in so many ways, including by making the 3 pm Christmas Eve Service a welcoming space for all people, and for Michelle's teaching

Sprouts. Braxton and Sophia Vann, went above and beyond in supporting their mother and helping decorate the church for the Christmas season. Lyndsay Lyons taught Sprouts for the first time. Thank you for sharing your gifts and time with the children, Lyndsay! On a snowy Saturday, Jim Smith and Dave Brown showed up at the church unannounced and helped clear snow and take down chairs and tables after a funeral reception. Thank you, gentlemen, for helping make big jobs more manageable. This list could be so very long! Thank you to all those unnamed here who have stepped in when they saw a need and helped, in ways small and big, to create safe spaces for everyone to grow with God and one another.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				 1 9:30 United Women in Faith 9:30 FB Live 6:30 No Choir	 2 12 God in Nature	 3
 4 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship 11:30 Names To Faces Event 5 Youth Group	 5 10:30 Lectio	 6 10:30 Staff 2:30 Comm at Chippewa Pl 7 Lectio	 7 6:30 Brkfst 7 p Online Bible Study	 8 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir	 9 12 God in Nature	 10  <i>Bike Fix It Day</i> 9 am—12 pm
 11 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship 5 Youth Group	 12 10:30 Lectio 5-9 Sew4Good	 13 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio	 14 6:30 Brkfst 7 p Ash Wednesday Worship Service	 15 9:30 FB Live 6:30 Choir 7 Leadership Board	 16 12 God in Nature	 17
 18 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship 11:30 Scouts Pancake Brkfst 11:30 Town Hall 5 Youth Group 6:30 Un-Natural Disasters	 19 10:30 Lectio <i>No School—</i> <i>Presidents</i> <i>Day</i>	 20 10 Stitch'n'Time 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio	 21 6:30 Brkfst 7 p Online Bible Study	 22 9:30 FB Live 6:30 No Choir	 23 9:30 UWF Board Meeting 12 God in Nature <i>Happy</i> <i>Birthday,</i> <i>Pastor Heidi!</i>	 24 <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Retreat at</i> <i>Camp Wanake</i> <i>today and</i> <i>tomorrow</i>
 25 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes 10:30 Worship No Youth Group	 26 10:30 Lectio	 27 10:30 Staff 7 Lectio	 28 6:30 Brkfst 7 p Online Bible Study	 29 9:30 FB Live 6:30 No Choir		

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9—3 pm

440-526-8938

info@brecksvilleumc.com



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, 2/18 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall



Scout Troop 175, which has been meeting at our church since 1942, will be preparing a pancake breakfast as a “thank you” the congregation. Make plans to enjoy this delicious hot meal. As always, all are welcome!

LEADERSHIP BOARD TOWNHALL

The Leadership Board will also be on hand to answer any questions and engage with you!
Don't miss this JOYFUL GATHERING!



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.