THE GOOD WORD



Sacrament Digital Painting by Anna Strickland

IT'S A NEW DAY

On May 1st, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church voted to remove the restrictive language from *The Book of Discipline*. This language, saying, "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching," was added in 1972 with much debate and we've been disputing it ever since.

In fact, there hasn't been a Conference since, where we haven't spent significant time debating and advocating for the full inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Recently, this debate has come to define much of our work as United Methodists. So much so, that in 2019 a special meeting was called (General Conference) to specifically focus on how we would move forward as a denomination in light of our disagreement on LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

However, at the 2019 GC, by a very slim margin (51% to 49%), it was voted to "double-down" on the restrictive language, adding additional disciplinary actions for clergy who chose to preside over same sex weddings.

Rather than ending the debate, this decision sent The United Methodist Church into more turmoil. Since then, 1/4 of United Methodist Churches have chosen to disaffiliate and join another denomination or become non-denominational.

So, this May, as we moved towards General Conference, I steeled myself for more contentious debate on the floor, with harmful, hurtful words spoken towards our LGBTQIA+ siblings.

Instead, on the morning of May 1st, petitions applying to LGBTQIA+ inclusion were placed on the morning's Consent Calendar (as they received 10 or fewer votes against, in their committees). The vote for the Consent Calendar passed, with a resounding 93% yes.

In one fell swoop, the restrictive language was removed from The Book of Discipline, clergy would no longer be punished if they chose to preside over same sex marriages, and LGBTQIA+ individuals could be ordained.

That morning, as they made this historic vote at GC, I watched the livestream while getting ready for work. When the voting results were shown, I stopped. Chills ran through my body and tears started to run down my face.

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Continued from front page.

I texted a few of my friends who were at GC, and asked, "Did that just happen?"

They said, "Yes. It's all over."

I thought to myself, "It can't be that simple, can it? We've been debating and arguing this for... ever." As tears flowed, I called anyone I could think of to share the news: it's a new day in The United Methodist Church!

As the day went on, I realized just how much guilt and shame I had been carrying because of the words, "homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

No, I'm not part of the LGBTQIA+ community. But I have family members who are. And I pastor people who identify as part of that community.

I've seen first-hand the harm that the incompatibility language has caused. I've had conversations with people who are convinced God hates them simply because of who they love. They've heard me say, "God's love is unconditional," and in their mind, they've extended the sentence to say, "... except for me and people like me."

My heart has broken as I've heard story after story of individuals shunned by Christian family members who believed scripture deemed them unworthy of love. I've watched people struggle in their faith, turning their back on God because they've been told by Christians that God's love doesn't apply to them... not really.

But on May 1st, 2024, the guilt and shame were lifted from my shoulders. The corporate harm of The United Methodist Church stopped, and we could begin to work towards healing together.

Brecksville United Methodist Church has been doing this work of reconciliation for the past 10 years. In fact, May 11, 2024 was our 10-year anniversary of being a Reconciling Congregation. I'm proud of the work our church has done (and continues to do!) to advocate for the full inclusion of all our siblings. It is Godly work!

As we move into this month of June—celebrating the diversity of God's humanity through Pride and Juneteenth—I'm reminded of what Paul said in Galatians 3:28, In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises.

May we continue our work of courageous inclusion: wholeheartedly welcoming all people as their perfectly imperfect selves.

Thanks be to God!

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

LIFELONG LEARNING



FAITH, FUN AND LEARNING FOR KIDS FROM PRE-SCHOOL TO SIXTH GRADE -- AND UP!

The focus of Summer Sprouts is on God's remarkable creativity in nature. We encourage the children to use their skills of observation and listening to see and hear as much of the natural world as they can right around the church grounds. Children are mesmerized by the variety of blooming flowers, the stumbling and bumbling of bees heavy with pollen and the many, many different bird songs and calls we hear as we sit silently for a few moments. It is a true gift to allow ourselves to be immersed in nature and look to God as the good and generous creator of it all. This year there might even be a walking field trip or two! **We gather the children for Summer Sprouts right after the children's moment during the 10:30 Worship Service.** Come collect your child on the church lawn after the service has ended. If the weather is poor we will hold Sprouts on the 4th floor as we do throughout the school year. Want to learn more? Email Jenny at <u>education@brecksvilleumc.com</u>.



Brecksville UMC's VBS Camp Firelight

July 8-12 from 9:30-12:30 "Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you." -Psalm 56:3

What could be better than to spend a week of summer mornings with your friends in the Metroparks playing and learning about God's amazing love? Not much!

We are incredibly excited to bring **Camp Firelight VBS** to the Oak Grove Picnic Shelter this summer the week of July 8-12. Each day of the week children and volunteers will hear a different story from the Bible that assures us that we can trust God to be with us in every situation. As we go to print, there are already 90 children registered. We have room for a few more! Learn more and reserve a spot for your child at <u>BUMCLinks.com</u>.



Want to be part of the best VBS Volunteer Team in the nation? If you can volunteer for the whole week, or just a morning or two, email Jenny@brecksvilleumc.com.

Financial Gifts Help Make it Possible!

Help make this community outreach possible with your financial support. There is little in this world more awesome than seeing over 100 children singing praises to Jesus and learning how beloved they are in God's eyes.

Snacks for all for 1 day - \$80

- 1 day picnic shelter rental \$150
- Science supplies for 1 day \$45
- Craft supplies for 1 day \$12
- Sponsor a child's t-shirt \$10
- Other:

Your Name:

Total Enclosed: \$

Share your gift in the offering plate or return to the church office. Give securely online here:

onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/ VBSSponsor



Sundays through September 1

Make a plan to explore the self guided prayer stations set up for you in the Chapel. There will be nine different stations for you to check out at your own pace. Some stations will have handouts to take home so that you can incorporate some new practices into your prayer life.



Lectio Divina

gistration is open!

Mondays at 10:30 am Tuesday Evening Lectio returns in the fall.

Looking for a way to engage with Scripture in community with others? Join us on Monday mornings at 10:30 am in the Chapel (on the second floor) for Lectio Divina. Spiritual Director Jenny Gee leads us in this ancient practice of "divine reading." Try it and see if it's for you! Want to learn more? Reach out to Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com

Register now at www.eastohiocom

Read a Chapter a Day: Summer Bible Challenge

Discipleship Ministries is thrilled to invite you to embark on a transformative journey with the *Read a Chapter a Day Summer Challenge!*



The challenge begins the day after Memorial Day (May 27) and ends on Independence Day (July 4). Each day (Monday through Friday) you will receive a new chapter from the Book of Acts by email. Don't miss this opportunity to grow together in faith, wisdom, and community. Learn more and register today! BUMCLinks.com



A Joyful Gathering Celebrating Lifelong Learning

Do you know someone finishing a degree or certification? We are celebrating our 2024 Graduates on Sunday, June 9 and we want to make sure that they are part of the celebration! By June 2, all graduates should tell us about their accomplishment using the form at BUMCLinks.com or email their photo and a short paragraph about their school degree and future plans to melanie@brecksvilleumc.com. This information will be shared in a bulletin insert for Sunday, June 9 when we will pray for these graduates and celebrate their commitment to lifelong learning!

There is still room for you at Camp! EAST OHIO CAMPS Summer CAMP 2024

Aldersgate | Asbury | Wanake | CYF | ReachOut | Institute

Find all you need to register online at www.eastohiocamps.org or contact us for a brochure or questions! camps@eocumc.com (330) 499-3972 exts. 139 or 120

faith Women action in Faith sisterhood

You are welcome in the Brecksville United Women in Faith!



United

THANK YOU to all of the people who supported our May fundraiser! And thanks to Creekside Restaurant & Bar. who donated 15% of your purchase of digital gift cards to our organization. It's a win-win! Results are pending, but we'll let you know the amount of funding UWF received at a later date.

We're Going to the Police Station & Out to Lunch

Thursday, June 6 from 10-11 a.m. UWF is sponsoring a tour of Brecksville Police Station! Bring your picture I.D. for this tour. Because of limited parking you may choose to carpool from the church parking lot to the Station's south lot and to Creekside. Lunch follows at 11:30 a.m. at Creekside Restaurant, right down the street! Come join us for fellowship! You'll be able to choose your meal from the regular menu and use your digital gift card that you purchased in May! You can go to the tour and the lunch, or just choose one. Please call or email our President Kathy Sopka for reservations: kmineagain@yahoo.com or call 440-821-5203. **RELAX & Enjoy your summer!!** There are no UWF meetings in July and August, but we'll come back strong on September 5 in the evening for a joint meeting of the UWF & Eve Circle. Remember, from fall through spring our meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 9:30 am in the church parlor. Mark it on your calendar!





Becky, Austin and Sarah at the 2023 BBH Pride Fest

COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

Pride in the CLE

Saturday, June 1 ~ Carpool from Church at 9:30 ~ Parade steps off at 11 am Come help spread the word that God's love is for everyone by marching in Northeast Ohio's largest Pride Parade. We will join Westlake UMC and others from our conference at this Joyful Gathering. Kathy Auble is leading the way! Sign up at BUMCLinks.

BBH Pride Fest



Saturday, June 8 from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm ~ Broadview Heights Community Center Live music, six food trucks, stilt walkers, balloon animals, face painting arts & crafts vendors, games, and more will help make BBH Pride Fest a day filled with pride, celebration, and community at the Broadview Heights City Campus & Amphitheater! Our church will be there, sharing the good news that God's love is for everyone and helping build a community of acceptance and inclusion. You can help make the event a success by volunteering for a shift at our table, donating "swag" from our Amazon Wish List, or coming and enjoying the day. Sign up at BUMCLinks.com!

JOYFUL GATHERING



Calling All Bakers!

We're asking bakers from the community to share their best recipes in our *third annual* goodold-fashioned pie baking contest for all ages!

If you know someone who makes a great pie, encourage them to pull out their apron, prepare their favorite pie and bring it to Home Days. We will have a group of "celebrity" judges to critique each entry based on taste, overall appearance, creativity, and texture. Bakers of the top scoring pies will receive a prize ribbon and cash prize. With enough entries, we will have prizes for both adult and youth categories.

After judging, any remaining slices of pie will be given away in exchange for donations to the Brecksville Human Services Center Food Pantry! So come be part of this fun afternoon and help feed our hungry neighbors! See our contest entry form for more information and official rules. BUMCLinks.com

BUMC's Got Talent:

Tickets on Sale Now! Friday, July 19, 2024 Doors open at 5/Dinner at 6



Some of the members of BUMC's Chancel Choir will be traveling to New York City this December to perform last year's cantata with Joseph Martin in Carnegie Hall! Let's help send them there! Join us for the "Christmas in July" themed fundraiser - a night of family fun and local talent in Fellowship Hall. The doors will open at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm, featuring the Welch Family favorite: Christmas Tacos! Then, at 7 pm the curtain will open for *BUMC's Got Talent*. <u>Tickets are on sale now!</u> Individual tickets run at \$17 per person for those 10 years and older, or \$10 for a children's ticket. You may purchase your ticket at BUMCLinks.com or see Anthy in the office to purchase tickets via cash or check. Tickets will not be available at the door. Contact Machala Comenschek-Slike, Director of Music for more information! <u>music@brecksvilleumc.com</u>



Calling All Performers!

Register to share your talent by June 23!

Do you have a family act that you'd like to share? A solo piece that you've been working on? A juggling act that you've been hiding in your back pocket? Consider joining BUMC's Got Talent and sharing your talent act with our congregation! All funds raised at this event will go towards the Chancel Choir's trip to NYC this December. You can register your act at <u>BUMCLinks.com</u>. Registration will close on Sunday, June 23. Contact Machala Comenschek-Slike, Director of Music if you have any questions about the show! <u>music@brecksvilleumc.com</u>

LEADERSHIP BOARD REPORT

Checking the Vitals

At the May Leadership Board meeting we reviewed the first Vital Signs report of 2024. As we discussed at the Town Hall on Sunday, April 21st, the Vital Signs have been created to measure how well we are doing at achieving our goals for the year. The goals are:

- Short Term Goal #1 Transition to SAS Governance model. (Simplified Accountability Structure)
- Long Term Goal #1 Develop a discipleship pathway and help 50 people take their next step in discipleship.
- Long Term Goal #2 Establish new and deeper relationships with 100 people from our communities; listening to gain understanding, discovering new ideas, and letting people know that we care.

The Vital Signs are designed to measure attendance, involvement, and outreach into the community. In addition to monitoring weekly attendance and giving, which are metrics that we have used for a long time, we are also gauging how involved our members are by keeping track of participation in Sunday School classes, on Ministry Teams, and at church-sponsored events.

This will help us know whether we are offering programs and events that are meaningful to those that call BUMC home. We are also compiling all of our internal and external-facing events to make sure that we are on track to establish relationships with 100 people from our communities.

We will continue to refine the ways that we measure our impact on our church family and our communities, but I am encouraged by the information that we are starting to gather and know that it will provide a framework for the Leadership Board and the church staff to achieve our 2024 goals.

If you ever have any questions about the Leadership Board, please feel free to reach out to one of the Board members or attend one of our monthly meetings. *And don't miss the next Leadership Board Town Hall on Sunday, June 30 after the 10:30 Worship Service.* Come hear the latest updates, ask questions and enjoy some food!

- Submitted by Eric Loutit

Your 2024 Leadership Board: Alan Scheufler (chair), Zane Burgstahler, Kristi Eberhardt, Matt Gabor, Carolyn Jatsek, Julie Kubek, Eric Louttit, Jim Slagle, Deb Watkins, and Rev. Heidi Welch. Need contact information? Please reach out to the office: 440-526-8938 or info@brecksvilleumc.com

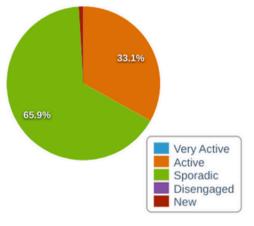


How are people engaging with worship services this year?



26.8%

How involved are our people: attendance, giving and participation in groups?





DETERMINED SERVICE



Pull Tabs wanted!

For Ronald McDonald House

Those aluminum pull tabs from soda and canned foods may not seem like much, but in 2023, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio collected 22,550 pounds of them - and converted them into more than \$10,000 to help provide families with temporary housing to be near their children receiving medical care. Because of donations like these, families are able to stay for FREE!

Keep (or start!) saving your tabs and bring them to the donation station on the first floor of the church. Al & Barb Harper are delivering our tabs to Ronald McDonald House in Cleveland every time the box gets full!

thankeyou

"Dear Brecksville Church Family, I am overwhelmed, humbled and profoundly grateful for your incredible generosity through the special Easter Offering, which was dedicated in support of Camphor Mission, Liberia. Our Volunteer in Mission Team is going in July with an ambitious, but rather expensive program that will include feeding up to 200 people during the two weeks we'll be there. Your amazing support is a huge boost to the mission budget, and will enable us to purchase much of the needed food supplies. I send you all love and gratitude from me, my team and the children of Camphor Mission. Celebrate Life!" - Janet Kleckner

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS for SLEEPING MATS

One way we can reuse disposable shopping bags is to cut them up and weave them into sleeping mats to put a barrier between people who have to sleep outside and the cold hard ground.

The Missions & Community Engagement Committee has purchased two looms, which will arrive in mid-June. It takes hundreds of bags to make one mat. *Here's how you can help.*

- Save your CLEAN, DRY, EMPTY shopping bags. Small tears are OK.
- If you can, flatten and fold them.
- Bring them to the white collection bin in the donation station (first floor coat room.)
- Want to cut bags at home in preparation for weaving? Reach out to Missions@brecksvilleUMC.com
- Watch for weaving dates and come help make mats this summer!



SUMMER POP UP MISSIONS! This summer we are excited to invite students in grades six through twelve to join us in various one-day service and missions opportunities, from June through August. We will aim for one monthly, but you never know when a new project might *pop-up*!

Our first pop-up will be in June where we will partner with the Mission and Outreach Team to make plarn (plastic yarn) for weaving into sleeping mats. These mats will go to persons without homes who need a soft place to sleep and rest. Want to help us? Reach out to Dana for more information on this and all of the YSM Pop Ups at <u>youth@brecksvilleumc.com</u>.



JUNE 19 - June 27, 2024

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Diapers: Newborn - Size 6 Swimmers & Pull-ups 0-24 Months Clothing (New) Socks & Scratch Mittens **Onesies & Outfits** Spring/Summer Styles **Baby Wipes Bottles & Sippy Cups Toddler Snacks**

Gift Cards in \$25 Denominations **Pacifiers & Teething Aids Baby Wash & Diaper Cream Recieving Blankets Baby Towels/Washcloths** First Aid & Nail-Care Kits "What To Expect" Books Infant/Toddler Tovs Adult Hygiene Products Infant Powder Formula



DROP OFF LOCATIONS



Brecksville Human Services Center Two Community Center Drive Mon - Wed 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Brecksville United Methodist Church 65 Public Square Sun - Thur 9 am - 7 pm Fri 9 am - 3 pm



June Donation Drive - Haven Home Baby Shower

Our June Donation Drive is a Community Wide Effort! We are partnering with Kiwanis Club and the City of Brecksville to collect donations for a community wide baby shower for the expectant mothers served by Haven Home, a Cleveland non-profit serving pregnant and parenting women with children under 5. Haven Home provides transitional housing with programs and services to help families move them from poverty to prosperity. Want to help? Pick up an item or two from the list above and encourage your friends to do the same. Bring your donations to our Donation Station by Thursday, June 27!



Ohio Artist Donates Recycled Metal Cross

"I'm an artist who makes metal crosses for inclusive churches." Steve Neff, of Lima, Ohio, arrived at Brecksville UMC with a resume and portfolio of his work last fall. He has created crosses from recycled aluminum and donated them to churches including Church Street UMC in Knoxville, Tennessee and Maple Grove UMC in Columbus. He has installed more than 40 crosses around Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan.

When he asked if we would like one we thought that it would be a perfect addition to our outdoor worship space.

The cross was installed on Tuesday, May 21 and will be dedicated on Sunday, May 26. By the time you read this article, it should be standing along the front sidewalk!

We are thankful for Steve and the ways that he is sharing his gifts with the world. Let's lift up a prayer of thanks for him!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June

Reach out with a prayer and a note, call or text each week this month!

Week of June 2

Mitchell Bell

He was confirmed in May! 10208 Woodview Way Brecksville, OH 44141

Week of June 9

A BUMC Graduate

Send congratulations See Sunday's bulletin for info.

Week of June 16 **Rev. Rus Martin**

A milestone birthday this week! 3750 Seabury Ct Burlington, NC 27215-8738

Week of June 23 Linda Rollins

It's her birthday this week! 2176 Brookdale Dr Frisco, TX 75036-2811

Week of June 30 **Dorothy Bowles**

Is turning 100 this week! 7885 Cambridge Dr Brecksville, OH 44141-1013

Nominate someone who could use a reminder that they are loved! Email prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

1 Rick Krause 1 Leslie Miller 2 Jeannette Dumot 2 Fran McClean 2 Judy McCrodden 4 Aaron Georgevich 4 Russell Slifcak 5 Kimberlee Fisher 5 Cathy Krolikowski 5 Wally Kudlaty 6 Megan Gardner 7 Darren Calovini 7 Courtney McDonough 7 Lauren Scott 9 Ann Hurley 9 John Zakarowsky 10 Maggie Gabor 10 Aurelia Perry 11 Jim Monnett

11 Cydney Tormento 12 Trevor Vastartis 13 Thomas Kuttler 15 Amber Lasich 16 Susan Vojtko 17 Dan AuWerter 19 Charlie Cooper 19 Judy Helm 20 Kevin Kwiatkowski 21 Russ Martin 21 Mark Pace 22 Gavin Santora 23 Mike Manocchio 23 Michael Pace 23 Linda Rollins 24 Anne Ford 25 Karolyn Hood 25 Jacob Nelson 25 Brian Pasek

25 River Roberts 26 Jerry Bartholomew 26 Linda Crouch 26 Craig Czarnota 26 Cathy Girard 26 Darren Krolikowski 26 Silas Spitzer 26 Jimmy Zawada 27 Shirley Galik 27 Jan Kranstuber 27 Ruth McDonel 27 Krissy Nelson 28 Joe Bartholomew 28 Dorothy Bowles 28 Lori Cooper 29 Hadley Vastartis 30 Taylor Cave



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 Bob Bloch, Bob Lundholm and Scott Campbell, who saw that repairs were needed to the framing around the Lube Window (the big arched window behind the screen in the Sanctuary) and fixed it!

We have a wonderful team of people caring for our church grounds this summer, including teams who rotate each week to mow and trim the lawn. Thank you Bob Lundholm, Doug Holmes, Matt Auble, George Gee, Dave Brown, George Sendrey, Matt Botzman and Kim Meyer. We also have wonderful folks who have adopted flowerbeds, including the Botzman family, Chuck and Becky Gezze, Gail and Kim Meyer, Dave Slaby, Terry and Jeff Close, Sue and Jeff Hastings, the Welch family, Marla Knight and Bob Lundholm. We're thankful for each of you and your willingness to share your time and talents with the church - and our community!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				PASTOR HEIDI CHECKS IN ON FACEBOOK LIVE EVERY THURSDAY MORNINGI		1 BRUMC ALL in God's image PRIDE IN THE CU
2 Communion Sun. 8:30 Worship/Lawn 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship	3 10:30 Lectio Divina	4 10:30 Staff 2:30 Chippewa Comm Sv. Last day of school for BBH	5 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast God In Nature Facebook Live	6 9:30 UWF Field Trip and Lunch	7	8 BBH & Directorille Breakferer He FRIDI Jest VOLUNTEER AT OUR TABLE 11 AM - 5 PM
9 Graduation Sun. 8:30 Worship/Lawn 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship	10 10:30 Lectio Divina 5–8 Sew4Good	11 10:30 Staff	12 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast God In Nature	13 14 15 14 15 15 10 15 10 10 15 15 2024 EAST OHIO ANNUAL CONFERENCE East Ohio Annual Conference		
16 Happy Father's Day! 8:30 Worship/Lawn 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship with Baptism		18 10 Stitch'n'Time 10:30 Staff	19 Office Closed 6:30 Breakfast 7:30 pm Leadership Board	20 Newsletter Deadline!	21 2024 HOMEDAYS June 21, 22 & 23	22 Pie Baking Contest!
23 8:30 Worship/Lawn 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship Home Days	24 10:30 Lectio Divina	25 10:30 Staff	26 6:30 Dawnbreakers Breakfast God In Nature Facebook Live	27 10 Newsletter Production Party	28	29 EXEMPTIONS MIGHT BE BIKE FIX IT DAY?

Home Day

30

8:30 Worship/Lawn 9:30 Joyful Gathering 10:30 Worship 11:30 Town Hall– with food!



Paper Recycling Update You may notice that our bins are filling up quickly these days. Our recycling company, Integrity Fiber, has reduced their number of routes in our area, but ours are staying put. We have requested an additional bin to help serve the community. Flattening all cardboard boxes helps make room for more paper! Please tell your friends - if it's paper, bring it to the bin!



Electronic Service Requested

Non-Profit US Postage Paid Cleveland, OH Permit No. 928

Church Office Hours

Sunday-Thursday 9 to 3 pm

440-526-8938 info@brecksvilleumc.com







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.