



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINCE 1814

Spiritual TRAIL GUIDE WINTER 2025

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BRECKSVILLE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SINCE 1814

MISSION

Creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another.

WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO DO.

VALUES – GUIDE OUR ACTIVITIES AND REVEAL THE UNIQUE STRENGTHS OF BUMC

Honest Worship

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

Joyful Gathering

We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share in the life God offers us.

Lifelong Learning

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

Courageous Inclusion

We whole-heartedly welcome all people to come as their perfectly imperfect selves.

Determined Service

We show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person.

MEASURES

I will create safe space to grow with God and one another by...

THESE QUESTIONS HELP US KNOW HOW WELL WE'RE DOING. ARE WE LIVING OUR VALUES?

... sowing love and compassion.

- Am I seeing myself and others through God's eyes?
- Am I seeking and giving forgiveness?
- Am I recognizing the presence of God's kingdom around me?

... cultivating sanctuary.

- Am I listening for the voice of the marginalized?
- Am I nurturing someone else's healing?
- Am I accepting of those different than me?

... tending to life-long learning.

- Am I engaged in exploring my faith with others?
- Am I actively seeking to grow my personal relationship with God?
- Am I reflecting my spiritual growth in my daily life?

... bearing God's fruit in service.

- Am I giving back to God?
- Am I sharing God's blessings with others?
- Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?

OUR MOST DEEPLY HELD IDEALS



REACH OUT TO PASTOR HEIDI OR THE VISION TEAM TO LEARN MORE!

HOW MINISTRY FITS TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE MISSION. THE BASICS OF HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION

STRATEGY

Rooted in worship.
Nourished in groups.
Branching out in service.





A message from Pastor Heidi

Brecksville United Methodist Church is a busy place! At any given time, there are multiple opportunities for you to serve and grow in your faith through BUMC. Each person's spiritual path is different—starting in different places, and making different choices depending on where you are in life. We strive to have a variety of opportunities so that no matter where you are on your path, there is something for you!

But sometimes, that means it can get overwhelming trying to decide how you want to invest your time and energy. That's where this Spiritual Trail Guide comes in. In this guide, you will find many ways you can grow with God, grow with others, and grow individually in the coming months. Spend some time reading through all the options, marking the things that sound interesting to you.

Have some questions? Write them in the margins so you don't forget to ask! Don't see a class or topic that's piqued your interest? Take a look at the self-guided studies listed two pages ahead. Want to reach out in service in a new way but need help making it happen? We'd love to come alongside you! Anthy is in the office Sunday-Thursday to help answer questions or connect you with the right person.

Once you're ready to make a commitment, write it down on the next page so you can hold yourself accountable to how you'd like to grow with God in the coming month(s). Better yet—tell a friend! People who share their goals and dreams with others are much more likely to accomplish them.

And know that when you grow, our church grows!

Each week, I hear a new story of how Brecksville United Methodist Church has made a positive impact on someone's life. And that happens because of you! We are a non-profit, volunteer-based organization. Without our fabulous, committed volunteers—without you!—we could not be Brecksville United Methodist Church.

So let's make a difference together in 2025!

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor



Spiritual Exploration Planner



Month: _____

My focus this month:

SCRIPTURE

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

SERVING OTHERS

INWARD INVENTORY

How am I...

Growing with God

Growing with Others

Growing Myself



COPY THIS SHEET AND USE IT EVERY MONTH

PRAYERS

PRESENCE

- 1st Sunday 3rd Sunday
- 2nd Sunday 4th Sunday
- 5th Sunday/Other:

HOW WILL I SHARE GIFTS OF:

Time: _____

Talents: _____

Treasure: _____

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION through self guided study

There are so many great resources for exploring and strengthening your faith journey. Here are just a few of them. If you have an area of interest not covered in this guide, please reach out to Pastor Heidi for ideas about where to look.



Discipleship Ministries E-Learning Courses

Receive high-quality information that will enrich your faith life! Check out a full list of online course offerings through the UMC, including some that offer Continuing Education Units. Check out current offerings here: <https://discipleship-ministries.teachable.com/>



Devotionals

for daily readings and prompts for spiritual reflection, pick up a copy of "The Upper Room" (from the display in the church lobby) or one of our seasonal devotionals (for Lent or Advent).



BookShop.org - Books for Self Guided Learning

Visit our shop for recommendations on books for your spiritual growth - with curated lists of books on Methodism, Missions, Grief and more. **Check it out at [Bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC](https://bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC)**



Amplify Media - Videos for Self Guided Learning

This streaming service delivers high quality videos with an emphasis on Wesleyan perspectives for digital discipleship - that you can enjoy anytime, anywhere. Our congregation has a subscription. Please email Jenny@BrecksvilleUMC.com for the details!

2025 LEADERSHIP BOARD



*Julie Kubek, Jim Slagle, Michael Houff, Maria Shurik,
Rev. Heidi Welch, Kathy Louttit, Matt Gabor, Kristi Eberhardt,
Alan Scheufler. Not pictured: Deb Watkins*

The board primarily focuses on setting the overall vision and direction of the church, making strategic decisions, and establishing goals. While making decisions, the Leadership Board remains accountable to the wider church membership. Reach out to learn more!



SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

We are unabashedly authentic in our lifelong quest to grow with God and learn with one another. We gather in an atmosphere of joy and laughter as we share the life God offers us.



Sign ups at
BUMCLinks.com

Adult Faith Formation Groups

- Am I engaged in exploring my faith with others?
- Am I actively seeking to grow my personal relationship with God?
- Am I reflecting my spiritual growth in my daily life?



Lectio Divina *Mondays at 10:30 am in the Chapel*

We spend time with a scripture passage. There is no homework and you can drop in anytime. The Chapel is on the main floor of the church. Walk past the water fountain and you're almost there.



Podcast Class *Sundays at 9:30*

Podcasts can educate, entertain, and enrich our thinking. Join this class as we listen to a selected podcast during the week, then talk about it on Sunday morning.



Radicale Methodism *Sundays at 9:30 1/12 to 2/2*

Explore the very beginnings of Methodist history and how our ancestors hoped to live out their faith. Join Pastor Heidi and friends in the Chapel or explore the free self-paced study online.



Fully Alive Discussion Group *Tuesdays at 7 pm Jan. 14 - Feb. 25*

Join Pastor Heidi and friends for weekly conversation about our winter sermon series. What does it mean to be fully alive? Is the concept of sin useful in the modern age? Let's talk about it!



Methodist Social Principles *Sundays at 9:30 February 9- March 2*

Join Kathy Dickriede and friends as we dig into the Social Principles of the UMC. The United Methodist Church believes God's love is an active and engaged love for the whole world. Learn what our Social Principles actually say and discover ways that you can live into them. We will have members of the congregation share their stories and hearts each week.



God In Nature on Facebook Live - Wednesdays

Why don't ducks' feet freeze when they stand on ice? What happens to an animal's body when it hibernates? Is every snowflake actually unique? Education Director, Jenny Gee, answers questions like these and shares some incredible facts about God's amazing creation on Facebook Live. Check it out anytime on Facebook or YouTube.



**United
Women
in Faith**

Brecksville United Women in Faith

The First Thursday of the Month in the Parlor

9:30 Refreshments & Community. 10 am Program & Meeting

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, United Women in Faith work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Get connected with one of our circles!

- February 6 – Sustainability in Your Own Backyard (the interaction of soil, insects and plants) with Kate Valentine.
- March 6 – Origins of Women's Groups in the United Methodist Church--in India? with Rev. Peg Welch.
- April 3 – Native Americans of the Cuyahoga Valley with Peg Bobel and Linda Whitman
- May 1 – Social Justice history of United Methodist Women with Brenda Calovini



Asbury Bremeth Circle - Second Thursday of the Month.

Women of faith gather for conversation (BYO coffee or tea!) at 9:30 then begin our study with Jenny Gee at 10. In February we will go on location with Ray Vander Laan as he explores the turbulent history of Israel's prophets and kings. He will help us see how their stories can help us build our devotion to and trust in God today.



Evening Circle

Usually The Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm

This service-oriented group of women meets in September, October, November, January, March and May for hands-on projects. We'd love for you to be part of it and are always open to new ideas and activities! Contact Lynn Hobzek at kezboh@aol.com



SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

For children and youth.



The Wiggle Room

Kids are always welcome in our worship spaces, but The Wiggle Room is available as another option! Staffed from 8 am until noon on Sundays, it's a safe space for our little ones, infants and up. Each adult is background checked and mindful of allergies and other needs.



Sprouts

Kids in preschool through 6th grade can meet with their teachers on the 4th floor after the Children's Moment at the 10:30 service. It's a time of learning age appropriate Bible stories through craft, cooking, science, games and lots of sensory fun!



9:30 Sunday School

(Preschool through 6th grade.) We watch a portion of a popular secular movie and explore its life lessons. How can we keep God at the center of our relationships, our activities and our very own being? We also use the movie to explore God's amazing creativity and generosity in the natural world.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) In the Park

Buckle up your seat belt and travel with us on an exciting journey to discover that God's presence is EVERYWHERE! This year's VBS is called Road Trip and it is based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Plan to join us the week of July 7 to 11 as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Registration opens April 1.

Youth Group - Weekly on Sundays from 5-6 pm. Begins Sept.15

Faith, food and fun is on the agenda for students in grades 6 through 12 on Sunday's during the school year. We typically enjoy a time of checking-in, a quick devotional, and a group game. Each week is a little different, so come and check it out. Friends are always welcome! We meet on the front lawn or in the Youth Room. Sign up for the weekly youth news for updates and details!

Email Dana Schwendeman for more information
Dana@Brecksvilleumc.com





BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

Youth Group Winter '25 Schedule

- 12 JAN** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Star Words Devo> Hide & Seek
- 19 JAN** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Holy Troublemakers> Extreme Spoons
- 26 JAN** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Holy Troublemakers> PlayDo Pictionary
- 2 FEB** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Holy Troublemakers> Hide & Seek
- 9 FEB** NO YOUTH GROUP- SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
- 16 FEB** YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT
5-7pm> Fresh Popcorn and Candy> Watch a movie on the big screen!
- 23 FEB** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Holy Troublemakers> Extreme Spoons
- 2 MAR** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Lent Devo> Uno
- 9 MAR** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Lent Devo> Hide & Seek
- 16 MAR** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Lent Devo> Extreme Spoons
- 23 MAR** NO YOUTH GROUP- SPRING BREAK
- 30 MAR** YOUTH GROUP IN THE YOUTH ROOM
5-6pm> Lent Devo> Craft Night

GROWING WITH GOD

HONEST WORSHIP:

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



HONEST WORSHIP: Sundays at 8:30

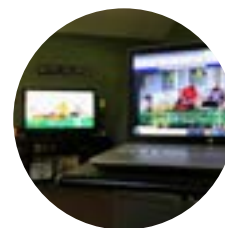
Contemplative Worship: Through Palm Sunday, we worship indoors with a unique opportunity to “be still and know...” by focusing our attention on scripture and prayer.

Worship on the Lawn: With hymns, affirmations of faith, and communion each week, we worship in God’s cathedral under our canopy of trees. We move outside on Easter morning and worship there through September.



HONEST WORSHIP: Sundays at 10:30

This energetic service, led by the Worship Band, includes an inspiring message and has additional options for kids - a Children's Moment during the service, and a special program for faith filled learning & fun (Sprouts) after the Children's Moment.



HONEST WORSHIP: Online

Worship live or later! Our services are streamed live to our website, Facebook, YouTube, and Boxcast - with real time chat on our Facebook page. Worship on your own schedule with our video archives. Prefer to take the message with you? We post a podcast every week of the scripture, sermon and prayer time. Listen on SoundCloud or wherever you get your podcasts.

We know that wherever we’re worshipping from,
the Spirit unites us and we are on holy ground!

HONEST WORSHIP: Special Worship Services this season



Fully Alive Sundays, January 12 through March 2

As the world grows more secular, can the concept of sin help provide a framework for living a full life? Can the practice of the Christian faith provide the foundation needed for these trembling times? Is it all about connection? Join the conversation!



Work-shop Sunday, February 23

We set aside a Sunday to participate in an act of service as worship, assembling 35,000 meals to be sent around the world to people in need with Rise Against Hunger. There are many ways to help and something for people of all abilities to do. Everyone is welcome, but registration is requested. Please visit BUMCLinks.com today!



Ash Wednesday March 5 at 7 pm

Somewhere between good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. On Ash Wednesday, we make a commitment to align our intentions and our actions.



Lenten Series - Everything In Between March 9 - April 20

With the gospel of Luke as our guide, we will imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

ASH WED.	1 st SUN IN LENT	2 nd SUN IN LENT	3 rd SUN IN LENT	4 th SUN IN LENT	5 th SUN IN LENT	PALM / PASSION SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURS	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
intention & action	stranger & neighbor	faith & works	rest & growth	lost & found	righteousness & mercy	shouting & silence	power & humility	acceptance & resistance	grief & hope
Luke 9:51-62 (Jesus sets out for Jerusalem)	Luke 10:25-37 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)	Luke 10:38-42 (Mary & Martha host Jesus)	Luke 13:6-9 (Parable of the fig tree)	Luke 15:1-7 (Parable of the lost sheep)	Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus greets Jesus)	Luke 19:29-40 (Jesus enters Jerusalem)	Luke 22:1-27 (Last Supper)	Luke 23:32-49 (Jesus dies alongside a penitent thief)	Luke 24:1-12 (The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb)

HONEST WORSHIP: Special Worship Services this season



Palm Sunday - April 13

Holy Week is a time of remembrance for Christians, marking the events leading up to Easter Sunday. We begin with a processional of palms and shout of "Hosanna in the Highest!"



Maundy Thursday - April 17 at 7 pm

In his final hours, Jesus shares a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. We remember his command to love one another in this service.



Good Friday - April 18 at 7 pm

A solemn service remembering the crucifixion of Jesus and his death at Calvary.



Easter Sunday - April 20

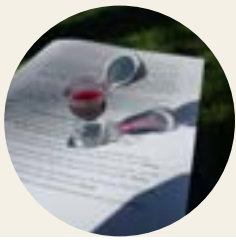
- Sunrise Service at 7 am - we greet the dawn on the front lawn.
- Traditional Service at 9:00 am - with Easter brass, choir and organ.
- Easter Service at 10:30 am - with worship band.

Baptism

Through the sacrament of Baptism, we are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. We receive God's grace in a unique and special way, no matter how old we are or how long we've been worshipping God. Interested in baptism? Please reach out to Pastor Heidi!

Communion

Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey. In The United Methodist Church, we observe an open table, which means that all are welcome to participate. Holy Communion is celebrated each week at the 8:30 service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service.



SERVING IN WORSHIP

When you're ready to step out of the pew and experience worship while serving others.

Welcome Team

A spirit of joyful hospitality fills the church on Sunday mornings, and your gifts of warmth and relationship can help create welcome for all who enter Brecksville UMC! As a welcome team member, you also answer questions, pass out bulletins, count attendance, collect prayer cards and the offering, and assist with special needs. Serve once a quarter, once a month or once a week as you're able.

Liturgists

Add your voice to a worship service as a liturgist, reading prepared passages of scripture and prayers, and leading the congregation in responsive readings.

Communion Stewards

We celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday at the 8:30 service, and on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service. From cutting the bread and pouring the juice to washing communion glasses after the service, preparation of communion elements is holy work that can be done alone, as a family or with a friend.

Music

Has God graced you with the gift of music? Consider sharing that gift in worship. Vocalists and instrumentalists are always needed in the choir, the worship band, and to share special music during worship services and special seasonal services.

Worship Arts Team

Help bring the message to life through the medium of the visual arts - from flowers to banners to paraments and visual images. This team is forming now!

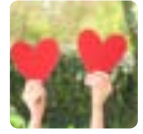
Audio & Visual Technology

If you have an interest in sound or visual production, these are exciting times for you! Come help produce worship services for people in the building and those joining us online. Run the cameras, mix the sound, or operate the worship slides with the team in the balcony. It's a special way to create space to grow with God!

Acolytes

Children entering third grade or older are invited to help create a worshipful space by bringing the light of Christ into the Sanctuary as the 10:30 Worship Service begins.

The Membership Journey



Each person who walks through the doors of BUMC is encouraged to engage in our missions and ministries. But at some point along the way, your questions begin to change from, “How can this church serve me or help me?” (important questions that help you discern whether we’re a good “fit” for you), to questions like, “How can I help this church make an impact in our community?” When this transition happens, it’s time to prayerfully consider whether you’re ready to become a church member. Brecksville UMC’s Membership Journey has several steps to help you discern whether we’re a good “fit” for you and becoming a member is the next step in your faith journey.

Snacks With the Staff is an opportunity to gather with our fabulous staff and get to know us. We share about the Vision Framework of BUMC, and take a tour of the building.

Basic Beliefs is a 5-week class focused on exploring the roots of the Methodist movement. This class will show you the amazing history of The UMC as well as the challenges we’ve had along the way.

Membership Class is the final step in the Membership Journey. This 3-week class focuses on what it means for you to be an active member of Brecksville UMC. This class will be spent helping you to learn about your God-given gifts, and how you can use those gifts to glorify God through Brecksville United Methodist Church.

You may take as long or as short as you would like to make your way through the Membership Journey. Basic Beliefs and the Membership Class are offered each fall. Snacks with the Staff is offered throughout the year, as the need arises. Reach out to Pastor Heidi to learn more - heidi@brecksvilleumc.com

Chrysalis and Walk to Emmaus

Western Reserve Emmaus and NEO Chrysalis is committed to serving our community and sharing the love of Christ. Everyone is welcome in a space that strives to be safe and inclusive for all people. Learn more: wreneoc.org



Chrysalis is an annual three day experience of spiritual renewal designed for high school youth ages 15 to 18 from any Christian denomination. Young people are making major decisions about religion, lifestyle, vocation and lifelong relationships. Chrysalis challenges them to grow in mind, body, spirit and faith. Girls Flight is January 18-20. Boys Flight is February 15-17, 2025



The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, workplaces, and communities. It also benefits less active members who are seeking to renew a relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer foundations for their lives. This annual retreat happens in the fall.

Church Staff - Office: 440-526-8938 - Text: 833-556-1171



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Resources for the journey:

- Our Sunday Bulletin announcements and updates for the week ahead. Pick up a copy at church or download at BUMCLinks.com
- On Thursdays, we email “The Sunday Blast” with links to Sunday’s scripture, Bulletins and action Steps. Email office@brecksvilleumc.com to subscribe!
- On the Fourth Friday of each month, we publish a long-form newsletter. Subscribe for a mailed or emailed version (or both) or pick up a copy at church. office@brecksvilleumc.com
- Explore our church website to view the church calendar and learn more about ALL THE THINGS: www.brecksvilleumc.com
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube @BrecksvilleUMC

Visit BUMCLinks.com for all of our links in one place!





Brecksville United Methodist Church

MINISTRY TEAMS



Office Manager

Coffee Hour
Welcome Team
Funerals

Communication and Connection

Newsletter Team
Congregational Care:
Meal Train
Visitation
Gophers

Education Director

Wiggle Room
Education
VBS

Youth Director

Youth Team
Confirmation
Youth Missions

Finance Manager

Audit
Stewardship
Budget

AV Team

Music Director

Choirs
Worship Team
Accompanist

Facilities Manager

Grounds
Building
Parsonage

Inclusion

Sensory Sensitivity
BBH Pride

Missions & Community Engagement

i.e. Bike Ministry
Trials for Hope
Pearl Road

Worship

Worship Arts
Communion
Stewards
Acolytes

SENIOR PASTOR



Leadership Development
& Nominations

Work Teams

United Women in Faith

LEADERSHIP BOARD

Gifts & Memorials



GROWING WITH OTHERS: DETERMINED SERVICE

We show God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person. We create safe space to grow with God and one another by bearing God's fruit in service.



Community Connection - Save these dates! More info to come...

Brecksville Home Days - June 20 to 22

Brecksville Flea @BUMC - First Saturday in August (tentative)



Bike Ministry - Giving Spokes to Folks since 2015

We accept donations of bicycles year round, and are always in need of helping hands to clean, repair, and make them road ready. Hundreds of bikes have been distributed to kids and adults in need because of this church's support. Join us on Bike Fix It Days, one Saturday a month, to help make it happen!



Brecksville Earth Day - Sunday, April 27 11 am to 2 pm

"Our Power, Our Planet" is the theme of the 55th annual Earth Day Celebration. Come to the Brecksville Horticulture Garage on Stadium Drive to visit with vendors, learn and explore how to recycle, repurpose and conserve in our community. Our church will have a table there!



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Houses of Faith from all over Northeast Ohio are coming together to finance and build two new homes for families in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood of Cleveland. We are thrilled to be part of it again this year. Look for work dates and more details coming soon!



JOIN THE BUMC GREEN TEAM!

work together to care for God's creation
and promote sustainability within our
church and our communities.



BEARING

GOD'S FRUIT

IN SERVICE

Am I giving back to God?

Am I sharing God's blessings with others?

Am I demonstrating God's love beyond the church doors?

Ministries of Caring



Congregational Care Team

Pastor Heidi leads this team in making regular visits to those in need of prayer and encouragement. If you would like to help make calls, send cards, or visit people, your gift of caring would be a gift well received!



Stitch'n'Time - third Tuesday of the month at 10 am

This group of talented people who knit and crochet meet monthly to make prayer shawls, prayer blankets, hats, mittens and gloves for people in need. All abilities welcome!



Sew4Good - third Tuesday of each month from 5 - 9 pm

This group of crafters dreams up ways to serve others through their creative talents. If you are a sewist of any level, or can iron or use a pair of scissors, you are encouraged to be part of it!



Funeral Reception Team

Being there for one another in times of grief is one of the greatest gifts we can share. Serve as a funeral service greeter/welcome team, or by helping set up, serve, or clean up after funeral receptions.



Deeds of Mercy

We maintain a fund to assist people in our community who have fallen on hard times. Support this ministry with your monetary donations and prayers.



Evening Circle

Usually The Second Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm

This service-oriented group of women meets in September, October, November, January, March and May for hands-on projects. We'd love for you to be part of it and are always open to new ideas and activities! Contact Lynn Hobzek at kezboh@aol.com

GROWING WITH OTHERS THROUGH DETERMINED SERVICE



Pearl Road Dinners

We help prepare and serve meals at the Pearl Road Kitchen at Pearl Road UMC each year. We partner with another church to serve the meal at Pearl Road UMC. Sign up at BUMCLinks.com



Trials for Hope - Harbor and Bridge

On the third Saturday of every other month, we support this United Methodist Urban Mission Project serving the people in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland by volunteering on-site.



Frozen Food Distribution Ministry

In partnership with Strongsville UMC, we take surplus frozen food from area restaurants and deliver it to feeding ministries. Help a hungry neighbor and keep good delicious food out of the landfill!



Monthly Donation Drives

We partner with a different non-profit each month of the year, collecting items to fill their most immediate needs. Learn about this month's organization and bring your donations to the first floor bin.



Nehemiah Mission - Bread on Bridge

This United Methodist Mission located at W 65th and Bridge Avenue, serves all corners of Cleveland. We prepare a community meal there on the third Tuesday of every other month. Come be part of it: February 25, April 33, June 25, August, October and December.



Pull Together for the House!

Saving your aluminum pull tabs is an easy way to support families being served by Ronald McDonald House NEO. Bring them to the donation bin in the coat room and the Harpers will deliver to RMH!

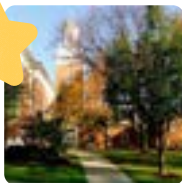
Want to get involved? Have ideas? See the calendar for the next Missions & Community Engagement Team Meeting!

BEARING GOD'S FRUIT IN SERVICE



Counters

Teams of two or more serve on a rotating basis, Sunday mornings, to count, record, and deposit the weekly offering. (To serve as a counter, you must be a member of the church.)



Church Closers

Our church is busy, with evening meetings six days a week. Closers commit to closing up the church after the last meeting each night for one week, on a five to eight week rotation.



Welcome Team

Have you ever walked into a gathering and no one said “hello! Good to see you?” That’s a terrible feeling. You can ensure that doesn’t happen at church. Join the Welcome Team!



Adopt-A-Bed & Mowing Teams

During the growing season, wonderful folks volunteer their time to care for a garden bed or to serve on a weekly rotation of mowers and trimmers. Sign up for 2025: Trustees@BrecksvilleUMC.com



Newsletter Team

It's a production party! We get together once a month to stuff, fold, stick, and sort about 300 printed newsletters (or seasonal program guides like this one) - and mail them out into the world.



Gophers!

Born of the pandemic, the gopher team is at the ready to make home deliveries to people in need when the need arises. Have a car and a willing heart? You can be a gopher!



Meal Train

A new baby is born, an accident knocks you off your feet, a surgery is scheduled - sometimes help with a meal is a tremendous gift! Sign up to be part of the team delivering meals for people in need.



Spring Clean Up Day - TBD

Grab your gloves and a rake and join us in cleaning up the church grounds. Many hands make light work! (And there will be donuts!)



= TEAMS WITH SPOTS TO FILL IMMEDIATELY



PERSONAL GROWTH

We are each given unique spiritual gifts that allow us to find our place in God's community of faith. As we employ these gifts in daily living, we find fulfillment and purpose in our relationship with God and with others. Reach out to Director of Education, Jenny Gee, to learn more - education@brecksvilleumc.com.



Spiritual Gifts Inventory

God has created us to be unique and has called us in Christ to be part of one body, each with a purpose. Our hope is that in exploring the spiritual gifts that God has given to you, you will find a place in that body that blesses you and fills you with a sense of purpose and satisfaction. Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory.



Spiritual Direction

Are you looking for someone to walk alongside you as you explore your life with God? A spiritual director is a trained listener who accompanies you on your spiritual journey, helping you to notice God's presence and activity along the way, as well as your personal reactions and responses. Spiritual direction is a ministry that helps you grow in prayer and live into your calling as a follower of Jesus.



Lay Servant Ministries

"Laity" means all the people of God. If you are feeling called to witness, lead, and have your service inspire others to a deeper commitment to Christ and more effective discipleship, reach out to Pastor Heidi to learn about Lay Servant training in our conference.

A Community Gathering Place

Our church is a vibrant place throughout the week. Here are a few of the activities you may find happening within our doors (or on our grounds), helping to make our community a better place for all people - heart, mind, body and soul.

Cardio Kickboxing Classes, Cleveland Federation of Dance Clubs, Dog training, Fundraising Car Washes for school groups, Horizons Preschool - serving kids aged 3 - 5, Insight Meditation Group, PEO - a philanthropic organization of women who raise money for scholarships, Recovery groups (including Al Anon, AA, and NA), Scout Groups....

JOYFUL GATHERING opportunities for connection



Scout Sunday Pancake Breakfast - *February 9 at 11:30*

Boy Scout Troop 175 has had a home at Brecksville UMC since 1924. Each year, they say “thank you” to the congregation by serving a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall. It’s a joyful gathering!



Chili Cook Off - *March, date TBD*

Warm up with some hot chili in this donation-based fundraiser for missions. Who will claim this year’s prize? Bring your family and friends for this fun, casual get together in Fellowship Hall.



Joyful Gathering Cookbook Potluck - *date TBD*

Create a dish from one of over 300 recipes in our new cookbook and bring it to our potluck. It will be a taste test extravaganza. The Joyful Gathering team is working out the details. More to come!



Save the date for Fall Kick Off- *The Second Sunday of September*

We celebrate Brecksville UMC's birthday and the start of a new program year with a joyful gathering. Join us for good food, a bounce house, lawn games, friendship, and fun!



Good Grub Social Club

Groups of 8 adults gather quarterly to share a meal

If you're looking for the opportunity to grow in friendship & faith, the GGSC is for you! Get to know others over a shared meal at home, at a restaurant or in the park. Groups form in the fall.



Dawnbreakers Breakfast Group - *Wednesday Mornings*

This group gets up with the dawn to enjoy breakfast, a devotional and conversation. They meet in Fellowship Hall or at the Brecksville Panera Bread. Doug & Gail Huth help keep things organized. Reach out to the church office for contact information!



Sunday Morning Joyful Gathering

The Parlor is a space for connection and friendship, a casual gathering space between services on Sunday mornings. Stop by before or after class or worship, or spend the whole hour there with friends.



COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

We recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all.

Inclusion is a Spiritual Practice

Jesus' teaching and example challenge us to be inclusive in practical ways. In every day life, we are called to reach past people's physical and mental struggles, gender, and ethnicity so that we may really see one another as beloved children of God. Here are a few examples of opportunities to strengthen your skills for empathy and inclusion.



Commemorate Martin Luther King Day - January 19

A worship service which aims to inspire participants to carry forward Dr. King's God-given vision of unity and hope. "Our hope is that people will leave this worship experience inspired to build on Dr. King's vision of beloved community." At Garfield UMC and streaming glive online. Learn more at BUMCLinks.com



Night to Shine - February 7

This annual prom for teens and adults with disabilities needs hundreds of volunteers to show care & love during an evening of joy at the Aviator in Brook Park. Volunteers of all abilities are needed. Learn more about this partnership with Bay Presbyterian & Strongsville UMC at BUMCLinks.com



Sensory Sensitivity Training

Develop your empathy muscles with this annual training from Kulture City. Through this free, online, and self-paced study, you will learn what the world might feel like to some of your siblings, and learn how you can create a welcoming space for those on the autism spectrum, those with brain injury, PTSD and more.



Reconciling Anniversary & Pride Month

We want to shout it from the rooftops - God loves YOU just as you are! In May 2011, our church set out our intention to create a welcoming space for all of God's children. We live that out every day, but Pride Month is a unique opportunity to reach out into the community. Want to help? Reach out to Anthy to connect you!



Care & Prayer Mail is a weekly opportunity to reach out in love to another human being. A list is published in our newsletter each month. Take a moment once a week to lift up a prayer and send a note, letting the person know you are thinking of and praying for them!



Our Welcoming Statement

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.

SCAN



CONNECT WITH US

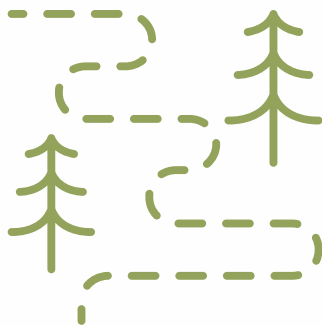
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