

@BrecksvilleUMC

THE GOOD WORD

July 2025

RISE UP BELOVED

Trust in God's Promises

Annual Conference '25

I just returned from the 56th Annual Conference of the East Ohio Methodist Church, which took place on June 12–14, 2025, at the College of Wooster. It was a truly uplifting experience—here's a little glimpse into what happened:

Theme, Worship and Bible Study

The conference theme was "Rise Up, Beloved: Trust in God's Promises," inspired by Mark 5:35–43—the story of Jesus bringing Jairus's daughter back to life. Each morning, we experienced meaningful worship services at the McGaw Chapel. Each afternoon began with a Bible study led by Rev. Dr. AHyun Lee, titled: "*Rise Up and Go: Soul Care Amid Trauma and Despair.*"

Thursday, June 12 – The Opening worship, included an Indigenous Drum Ceremony by the Gray Cloud Singers, and was followed by a formal acknowledgment by the conference of our responsibility to pursue mutually healing relationships with indigenous people. During this conference, we celebrated 140 years since Mary Scranton and her son, William, traveled from Cleveland to Korea as a missionaries. Bishop Seong-Bok Kim from Seoul provided the sermon and spoke about the impact that the introduction of Methodism had in Korea and on him personally. Bishop Kim was joined by several members of a delegation from South Korea, who attended Annual Conference this year.



Friday, June 13 – This service included the reading of the scripture in Spanish, commemoration of clergy and others who have passed away and Communion led by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. The healing energy, joy and enthusiasm of our new bishop was inspiring! During his sermon, he challenged us all to "*Trust in God's Promises,*" as well as to live into the new vision of loving boldly, serving joyfully and leading courageously. Bishop Jung has "God-sized" goals of planting 100 new churches in Ohio, as well as visiting every Methodist church in Ohio!

Saturday, June 14 – This Service of Licensing, Commissioning, Ordination, and Retirement, included a special sermon by retired Bishop Jonathan Keaton. Rev. **James Winkler**, former pastor at BUMC, is retiring and was recognized during the service. It was an honor to see **Rev. Kathy Dickriede** take an active leadership role in this service.

Business Sessions & Fellowship

Each afternoon, we gathered for plenary sessions covering a broad agenda—from voting on constitutional amendments, to hearing ministry reports, budgets and compensation discussions. An updated sexual ethics policy was voted upon and passed. Several Resolutions were passed, including the formation of an Ohio site for the Immigration Law and Justice Network, which provides free or low-cost legal services and advocacy for immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. **We received the good news that Pastor Heidi's appointment at BUMC was confirmed for the next year!** Bishop Jung also announced the formation of an Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team, which includes members from both the East Ohio and West Ohio Conferences, **one of whom is Pastor Heidi.** This task force is charged with actively listening, discussing and discerning to make recommendations to form a new, unified Ohio Conference. Bishop Jung encouraged all to see this as a re-creation, and that collaborations are not just for survival, but can be ways to open even more doors.

It wasn't all business, though! A lively Ministry Fair featuring 40 tables of local ministries, including a booth manned by **Craig Kotnik** for Nehemiah Mission, and a Midwest Mission collection truck ran both Thursday and Friday, gathering essential items for dignity and home-care kits.

Continues on page 6

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FROM THE PASTOR



What's On My Mind

You may have heard that we're in the beginning stages of a capital campaign.

And I'll be honest, I've been struggling the past few months to get excited about it. I know that practically we need a roof, parking lot, elevator, etc. for our church building. But those things are boring. Take a roof for example—you spend a bunch of money and don't really get to “enjoy” it (other than not getting rained on during worship!). And if I can't get excited about these things, then how am I supposed to get others to want to give their hard-earned money to it?

So I've been praying about it. A LOT.

Then, a few weeks ago, I finally slowed down enough to hear God speak. I remembered how when we first started talking about needing a new roof, I kept asking the Trustees (this was before we changed leadership structures), “But why do we need a roof? What can happen in this church that can't happen somewhere else? Why do we need this building? COVID showed us we can “be church” and worship from anywhere!”

But these questions/comments were consistently met with blank/confused stares: “Pastor Heidi we need a roof that doesn't leak so that everything stays dry... so that the building doesn't crumble around us.”

Well, yes—obviously. That's the practical answer.

But I was looking for something deeper... something missional.

Eventually, I stopped asking those questions, because I got tired of feeling like I was a crazy person talking another language. (It should be said: I don't fault the Trustees for giving me blank stares—it's a reasonable response, especially when you're a very practical, engineer-minded person, like many in that room!)

Then, last, I met with Joy Fenton-Jones (aka Joy Parker, who was at BUMC for 9 years) to talk about the building and our capital campaign. I had heard Joy share at a conference event about her work helping churches reimagine what's possible in and around their church buildings. And that sounded like something important to think about at BUMC right now!

During my meeting with Joy, God started to put all the pieces together (I thank Joy for helping me verbally process everything that was racing through my mind!):

Continues on page 6



VBS

IN THE PARK!

July 7-11 - 9:30 to 12:30

LIFELONG LEARNING



VBS Registration is Officially Closed— And What a Response!

We are thrilled to share that 125 children are registered for this year's Vacation Bible School—what an incredible turnout!

This summer, VBS is on the move! We'll be gathering at the beautiful Blossom Hill Pavilion off Oakes Road, a new location for an unforgettable week of faith, friendship, and fun.

With the support of more than 60 amazing volunteers, our kids will dive into powerful Bible stories each day—stories that remind us again and again that we can trust God to be with us in every situation.

As we prepare, we ask you to surround these children, their families, and our dedicated volunteers in prayer. Let's lift this special week in love and hope—because VBS truly is the best week of summer!

Want to support VBS?



YES! I Want to help make VBS Possible!

Your financial support helps keep VBS affordable for all families. 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.

Can you become a VBS Sponsor? Consider these costs:

- ☐ Snacks for all for 1 day - \$80
- ☐ Half week picnic shelter rental - \$150
- ☐ Science supplies for 1 day - \$45
- ☐ Craft supplies for 1 day - \$12
- ☐ Sponsor a child's t-shirt - \$10
- ☐ Other amount



Name:

Donation Amount:

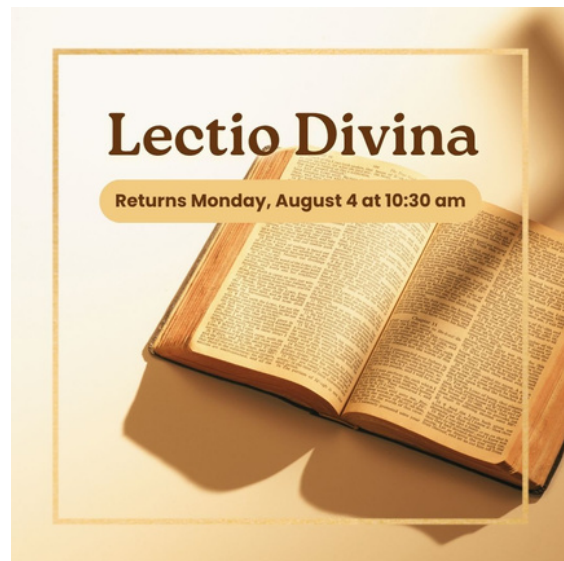
Return this form to the church office or drop it in the offering plate.

To pay securely online, visit

<https://onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/VBSSponsor>

Lectio Divina

Returns Monday, August 4 at 10:30 am



When we think of July we picture fireworks, parades, camping, cookouts, celebration and festivities - it is a time of community. While our regular class schedule takes a break, there are plenty of unique opportunities to take our faith beyond the four walls of our church: outdoor worship, Vacation Bible School, camp ministries, mission trips and outside fellowship activities that bring us together and make us proud to be United Methodist!

Summer Reading Lists

for lifelong learning

Need a good book for your trip, or to enjoy on the patio on a summer afternoon? Check out our book shelves on Bookshop!

Use the lists as inspiration to find a book at the library or purchase a copy - knowing that your purchase supports the church and independent bookstores everywhere.



[Bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC](https://bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC)



Underground Railroad and Freedom Center

Saturday, July 12

You are invited to attend a United Methodist day at Cincinnati's National Underground Railroad and Freedom Center on Saturday, July 12. A bus will be travelling from Medina, OH to Cincinnati, making a stop in Columbus. You are invited to ride on the bus, or meet at the Freedom Center. Our commitment to Anti-Racism compels us to live into truth-telling and story-telling. After our time at the Freedom Center, we will gather for a meal and debriefing at New Vision UMC before making the trip back to Medina. To learn more, view the schedule and register visit BUMCLinks.com

This trip is intended to be intergenerational with special pricing for youth groups and young people to attend. It is also not just a day for United Methodists! We hope you can join us.



SCAN TO REGISTER

The Reinstatement of Ordination Service

Sunday, July 6 at 6 pm - First United Methodist Church, Cuyahoga Falls

In 2024, after more than a half century of debate and defiance over the place of LGBTQ people in the denomination, General Conference delegates — by sizable majorities — voted to end decades-old bans on the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy and the officiation of same-sex weddings.

Jennifer Wellington and Michael Alexander will regain their United Methodist ordination credentials during a joyous worship service hosted by the Board of Ministry at First United Methodist Church in Cuyahoga Falls (245 Portage Trail). You are invited to the celebration.

Bishop Sally Dyck will be preaching, and Revs. Wellington and Alexander will be speaking. We will celebrate Holy Communion and enjoy special music from a choir directed by Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones. A fellowship gathering with light refreshments will follow the service.

For those who are unable to attend, the service will be live streamed on the First United Methodist Church of Cuyahoga Falls Facebook page ([@firstchurchcf](https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchcf)) and YouTube channel ([@firstchurchcuyahogafalls](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)).



About the speaker

Bishop Dyck is a retired episcopal leader of The United Methodist Church, having served from 2004 to 2020. She previously oversaw the Northern Illinois Annual Conference (2012-2020) and the Minnesota Conference (2004-2012). She currently serves as the Ecumenical Officer of the Council of Bishops. Ordained an elder in the East Ohio Conference, Bishop Dyck pastored churches there and served as a district superintendent in the Wooster area. She earned a master of divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology and a certificate from the Ecumenical Institute, a joint program of the World Council of Churches and the University of Geneva, Switzerland. She is the author of *A Hopeful Earth: Faith, Science, and the Message of Jesus* (with Sara Ehrman; Abingdon, 2010) and *A Faithful Heart: Daily Guide for Joyful Living* (both published by Abingdon Press, 2010). Deeply committed to justice, she worked for full inclusion of the church, immigration reform, women's and racial justice, climate justice, and peacemaking as essential to discipleship. She runs daily and enjoys traveling with her husband, retired elder Rev. Ken Ehrman.



Trials for Hope Work Day

Saturday, July 5

Our next Saturday trip to Trials for Hope, an urban mission in Ohio City, will be on Saturday, July 5. Spend a Saturday morning lending a hand, helping prepare deliveries, organizing donations, and more.

We can help create a community where every individual is seen, valued and treated with dignity, ensuring no one falls through the cracks by supporting Trials for Hope with our presence and gifts. Trials for Hope is dedicated to fostering compassion, meeting the essential needs of the under-served and making sure every neighbor feels loved and supported.

Kathy and Matt Auble lead this ministry. Visit BUMCLinks to learn more and sign up! This is a *great* opportunity for families to serve together!

July Donation Drive for Womankind

Donate through Sunday, July 27

Since 1975, Womankind has been supporting pregnant women and young mothers who have little or no insurance through their Garfield Heights office. They provide pregnancy testing, professional prenatal care, counseling, and baby essentials until age two - all at no cost to their clients.

We can support this work. Much needed items include:

- Sizes 12, 18, and 24 month clothing - smaller sizes are NOT needed at this time.
- Baby formula - Enfamil or Similac
- Size 4-5 and 6 diapers
- Gift cards - Giant Eagle, Walmart, Visa, or Amazon

If you are moved to help, shop and bring your donations to the green bin on the first floor, or shop Womankind's wishlist and ship directly to them. (Find the link at BUMCLinks.com!)

Bike Ministry Seeks Leader



This well established and successful ministry needs volunteer leadership, and we have an official "job" posting for this volunteer position. Know someone with a passion for bikes and helping others? **Direct them to the job posting at BUMCLinks.com!**

Bike Repair in July: There's more than one way to fix a bike! Between Vacation Bible School and actual vacations, we aren't able to dedicate a Saturday to repairing bikes in July. BUT the need for bike repair still exists, and it is great. What can we do?

- Adopt a bike for at-home repairs. Take it home, clean it up and do needed repairs and replacement of parts (which you can take from our stage workspace). Bring it back to be delivered in August.
- Take a bike to the shop! Support a local bike store by taking one of our bikes there for a tune up. Old Station Cycle is just down the road - text them to set up an appointment: 440-276-0974
- Shop for bike parts so we'll have plenty at our next Bike Fix It Day in August. See our wish list at BUMCLinks.com



Project First Day

For the thousands of children living in New York City shelter system, school supplies are a necessity their families can't afford. Project First Day is a back to school program giving children a new outfit, new shoes, a backpack, and grade-specific school supplies for the entire year. Kristen Kubek has reached out to her church family for support as she and her co-workers attempt to sponsor 35 children to provide them with their back-to-school needs and let each child know that there is someone cheering them on. It costs \$135 per child and Kristen is looking for financial donations via Venmo, or reach out to her to ship purchased items by July 4. More information at BUMCLinks.com



Is it time to clear some clutter? Are you a crafter looking for a place to sell your wares? Have a surplus of garden goodness to share? Enjoy searching for thrifted treasures? Mark your calendar for the second annual Brecksville Flea at BUMC, Saturday, Aug. 9.

Space is limited!

Registration open now

BUMCLinks.com

Tell your friends about this joyful gathering. Enjoy concessions including Chefs Welch & Vann & Auble's

FAMOUS BBQ!

Help keep unwanted items out of the landfill. Come shop! Questions? Call the office!

Have items to donate?

Melanie is collecting board games and puzzles for the **Nothing But Board Games and Puzzles** tent. Other items can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall beginning on Thursday, August 7 at noon.



What's On My Mind, Continued from page two

We have a fantastic vision frame-- our mission, values, strategy, and measures. But we don't have a clear picture of the next 3-5 years to put inside that frame (like a picture in a picture frame... get it?). And if we don't have a clear picture of what God is calling us to do at BUMC in the next 3-5 years, then why should we spend \$1M+ on our building? We need a clear vision for what God is calling us to as a church community and how God is calling us to use our physical building.

Add in that we've just experienced the loss of Dana, a friend/colleague/mentor/staff member, and that we will need to hire an additional staff person.

And, that the world has been and continues to change at lightning speed--particularly for us, in regards to how people relate to the church, and what they need from the church.

Leadership Board already planned to have a consultant come in to help us with visioning, goal setting, and thinking through our program staff needs. So, what if we paused our progress on the capital campaign for a moment and focused on vision, goals, etc.? Then, when we come to the congregation with our capital campaign ask, we'll have a full picture of what we're asking for and why!

So I talked with Alan, our Leadership Board Chair, and he was getting a similar nudge. Then, we met with our Capital Campaign work group that night, and they agreed that a vision-first approach makes logical and missional sense. So with Leadership Board's blessing, that is what we're going to do.

Why am I telling you all this? Why am I showing you how the proverbial sausage is made? Well, because I think it's important that our church community knows that at BUMC, we listen to the Spirit... even if it's not convenient or doesn't fit our timeline.

AND, we need your help-- in the coming weeks/months, we need your prayers and we need your insight into our community. What are you and your friends struggling with? What passion has God laid on your heart? How can we reimagine our building to create a "community commons?" Leadership Board will be providing different opportunities for you to share your insights and thoughts, so that together we can do the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet, but God already has planned!

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Annual Conference Recap

Continued from Front Page

Thank you to those from BUMC who donated to this collection. On Friday night, I attended the Open Table gathering hosted by Reconciling Ministries Network and **Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones** and her husband, Will, Director of Multicultural Ministries for East and West Ohio. Rev. Dr. Izzy Alvaran, Director of United Methodist Connections, spoke on the importance of belonging, as well as the harm and the healing that is ongoing. On Thursday, I attended the Creation Care luncheon, where we watched a video featuring churches in the desert and the steps they are taking toward caring for those around them and combating the effects of the changing climate. (If this interests you, check out Creation Care | UMC.org)

Community & Connection

The setting at The College of Wooster created a warm, collegial atmosphere—walks across campus, conversations over meals in the Lowry Student Center, and even a golf-cart shuttle ride or two. The conference offering was designated to three impactful causes:

- Mary Scranton Memorial Mission Center
- UMCOR Global Migration Relief
- Bishop's Discretionary Fund

Overall, the experience was a harmonious combination of inspiration, thoughtful discourse and genuine fellowship. It felt like a community not just gathering, but rising up together in hope and trust.

To learn more, to see pictures, to watch videos, etc. visit: [Annual Conference 2025: Rise Up, Beloved – East Ohio News](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to attend Annual Conference this year on behalf of Brecksville United Methodist Church. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, I'd be happy to chat. Stop by Coffee Hour on the 4th Sunday of the month—and feel free to ask me about the best coffee shops in Wooster. Good info to have if you'd like to attend conference next year, when it returns to the College of Wooster! 😊



- Deb Watkins, Lay Representative to Annual Conference

LEADERSHIP BOARD REPORT



Enjoy the Journey!

Submitted by Julie Kubek



Let's face it, this is the time of year that we Clevelanders live for! We look forward all year to a respite from the chilly winds, gray skies and snow shovels propped in the corner. When we finally turn our calendars to these warm summer months, it is with great anticipation that we welcome sunny days, relaxed schedules, and get-togethers with family and friends. For many of us a vacation or long weekend to get away from our busy life routines is the icing on the cake!

Whether you and your family plan to leave home this summer or opt to relax in your own backyard, remember God is with us on the journey as Pastor Heidi reminded us during one of her recent sermons. Summer travels are fun, but they can also be filled with unexpected surprises, delays or events that test our patience and strength.

So, too, is the way of life's travels. Life journeys are not always smooth, and we are bound to encounter challenges that will test our courage and faith. These obstacles often serve to teach us memorable lessons, and it is through navigating such challenges that we are brought closer to our Maker.

As we savor this beautiful season, let's not forget to take time to rest in God's presence, just as we rest from our routines. Whether you're traveling, hosting gatherings, or simply enjoying quiet moments on your porch, may your summer be filled with joy, renewal, and reminders of God's abundant grace.

We encourage you to stay connected with your BUMC family over these months. Worship with us when you're in town, and keep us in your prayers when you're away. From all of us on the Leadership Board, may your summer be safe, blessed, and filled with light. **Happy Summer, and may God's peace be with you!**

-Julie Kubek and the Leadership Board

The 2025 Leadership Board: Kristi Eberhardt, Kathy Louttit, Michael Houff, Julie Kubek, Alan Scheufler (chair), Matt Gabor, Jim Slagle, Maria Shurik, Deb Watkins, Rev. Heidi Welch.



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

Week of July 6

Jim Lee

It's his birthday!

9226 Glenwood Trl
Brecksville, OH 44141-2504

Week of July 13

Don and Beryl Burkle

Have a new address

3308 Brecksville Rd. #103
Richfield, OH 44286

Week of July 20

Paul Frank

It's his birthday!

6217 Brookside Rd
Independence, OH 44131-6307

Week of July 27

Ruby Ludwig

It's her birthday!

10051 Deerfield Ln
Brecksville, OH 44141-3602

*Nominate someone who could use a
reminder that they are loved
and kept in prayer!*

Email Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

1 Seth Archacki	11 Joan Bloch	22 Matthew Mellott
2 Derek Ritterbusch	12 Dave Lienert	23 Ruth Herman
2 Domenic Bellone	12 Rus Welch	23 Nathan Olszko
2 Jack McCrodden	13 Diana Aubrielle Jacob	23 Molly Donathan
2 Henry McCrodden	15 Machala Comenschek-Slike	24 Elizabeth Jaszczak
2 Sophia Vann	16 Matthew Nurre	24 Allison Toensing
3 Kathleen Koteles	16 Jude Miller	24 Vivian Lyons
3 Elizabeth Romance	17 Jim Fredrick	25 Lawrence Kaminski
4 Jim Lee	17 Cara Santora	25 Matthew Manocchio
4 Johnny Santora	18 Camille Baker	26 Carl Rossborough
5 Douglas Geib II	19 Tim Kenney	26 William Olszko
6 Gabrielle Marotto	19 Adriana Sottosanti	27 Laurie Riccardi
7 Wendy Cheney	20 Wade Hurley	28 Ruby Ludwig
7 Janet Beck	21 Nick Rajkovich	28 Addie Knight
7 Tyler Teare	21 Amy Hazelton	28 Claire Burgstahler
8 Kevan Fisher	21 Stefan Wygonski	30 Rachel Machesky
8 Jon Wygonski	21 Zachary Kardos	30 Beth Smith
9 Kevin Machesky	21 Miles Paroda	30 Paul Dadas
9 Tracy Scott	22 Paul Frank	30 Laurie Robusto
9 Amelia Lyons	22 Michelle Botzman	31 Zane Gabor

**If you would like to be added to - or to opt out of - the monthly birthday list,
please email melanie@brecksvilleumc.com*



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. We are thankful for ALL of our teachers and helpers, but want to sing praise today for Michelle Botzman who sewed 17 coasters for Sprouts? What does that mean? She had an idea and ran with it. 17 coasters! For Sprouts! Speaking of ideas, Matt & Max Gabor and Don & Cathy Krolikowski have led a class for the past two years, finding podcasts to enjoy and leading discussion about them. It's been such a gift. Thank you! Speaking of gifts, Michael Gezze? He designed our awesome VBS logo this year, incorporating this year's mission theme - monarch butterflies - which remind us of Dana. It's so cool, Michael. Thank you! Speaking of cool, we want to shout out the a small team of people made our booth at BBH Pride a warm and welcoming place on a rainy muggy day - and shared the message that God's love is for everyone, especially Cam, who taught others how to make bracelets. That's cool! To all those who served at the tent, who marched in the CLE Pride Parade or who served at our Home Days Booth, **thank you** for being a living expression of God's love in the world. You are creating safe spaces for everyone to grow with God and one another!

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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AUGUST 2025

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31						

JULY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Staff Mtg, 10:30 Comm at Chippewa 2:30 Mission Food prep, 2:30	2 Breakfast, 6:30	3 Mowing Team: Auble/Gee	4 HAPPY 4th of July	5 Trials for Hope Work Day
6 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering Time 10:30 Worship <i>6 pm Reinstatement of Ordination Service at First UMC, Guyahoga Falls</i>	7 No Lectio 	8 Mission Food prep, 2:30	9 Breakfast, 6:30	10 	11 Mowing Team: M. Botzman/	12 Church Wedding 3 pm
Vacation Bible School In the Park						
13 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering Time 10:30 Worship	14 Leadership Board, 7:30 pm	15 Staff Mtg, 10:30 Mission Food prep, 2:30 Sew4Good, 5-8 (Stitch'n'Time is taking this month off.)	16 Breakfast, 6:30 <i>NEW newsletter deadline the 3rd WEDNESDAY of each month!</i>	17 Newsletter Deadline Today!	18 Mowing Team: P. Botzman/ Spencer	19
Reach Out Camp						
20 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering Time 10:30 Worship	21	22 Mission Food prep, 2:30	23 Breakfast, 6:30 Newsletter Production Party, 10	24 	25 Mowing Team: Brown/Sendrey	26 YOU GOT THIS!
27 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering Time 10:30 Worship	28	29 Mission Food prep, 2:30	30 Breakfast, 6:30 <i>Let's lift up a prayer of thanks for the members of our mowing team!</i>	31 	BRECKSVILLE FLEA @BUMC 8/9 	

Find calendar updates at www.BrecksvilleUMC.com/calendar



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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Church Office Hours

Sunday 9 - 1 pm
Monday - Thursday 9 to 3 pm
440-526-8938
info@brecksvilleumc.com



You are wanted here, exactly as you are.



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.