

@BrecksvilleUMC

THE GOOD WORD

August 2025



Left - Kathy & Eric Louttit, Linda Crouch, Charles & Jamie Schwendeman. Right - VBS Kids with some of their bags packed!

Leadership Board Report by Kathy Louttit

When school is out and families are taking summer vacations it may seem a bit quieter at church. But, there are still plenty of opportunities for community connection through Brecksville UMC.

In June, Eric and I participated in Cleveland Pride. It was an absolutely wonderful day. Our group was small: Linda Crouch, Charles and Jamie Schwendeman, Eric and me. The parade took about 1 ½ hours, and we walked along with other local churches. There were just as many people watching the parade as there were walking in it, an extremely positive display of love and support. We didn't stay for the after party, but there were lots of booths, musicians and speakers lined up for the afternoon.

The following weekend, we attended Pride Fest in Broadview Heights, another new experience for us. The BUMC booth was lots of fun! We had candy, stickers, and other giveaways. Cameron Wasie hosted a beading station, where people could make bracelets. I had several interesting discussions with people who go to other churches but wanted to learn more about how we got to where we are in supporting events like Pride Fest and the process that our congregation went through to become a reconciling church. It was very exciting to tell our story of

becoming a reconciling church 11 years ago and experiencing the many ways our church family has grown since then. I walked away from the event feeling that we are making a difference – that we are known in our community for being intentionally welcoming to all.

We also participated in the BUMC Home Days booth, where it was HOT, but again, quite fun. Here we supported the community in another way, one scoop at a time, by providing ice cream cones and floats on a sunny Sunday afternoon. Home Days provides another great opportunity for the church to connect with and meet members of the community.

Finally, although I didn't participate, I enjoyed hearing about VBS from Maria Shurik and Julie Kubek at Monday night's Leadership Board meeting. We had 125 students registered for VBS, 34 of whom already are associated with BUMC in some way. That means 91 students (and their families) connected with BUMC through our VBS program! Jenny and 67 volunteers came together to make the week a complete success. They expanded the programming

Continues inside, see "Church Beyond Walls" page 11

Brecksville UMC

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FROM THE PASTOR

What's More Productive?

My favorite part of VBS is the conversations I get to have.

This year, I introduced the bible story each morning at the “morning assembly,” and then Jenny didn’t have anything specific for me to do, so I got to spend the rest of the day walking around, checking out the different stations, and talking with the volunteers and participants. Sometimes the conversations were deep—talking through something they were struggling with; but mostly they were about how their day was yesterday, their vacations, funny stories, and what’s keeping them active this summer.

Towards the end of the week, as my to-do list had somehow gotten longer rather than shorter, I wondered to myself: “Is this the best use of my time? I would be more ‘productive’ if I went to the office to work rather than ‘hanging out.’”

But then I reminded myself that so much of the ministry “business” is relational—understanding what’s going on in peoples’ lives, helping each person know that they are loved and important by giving them some of my time. It’s not often I get to hang out with almost 200 people for a few hours each day, learning about their passions and struggles, hopes and fears. (And get to blow bubbles with Casimer, give Gavin the stink-eye, and be a backup dancer to Machala!)

It reminded me of when I first got to BUMC and I did a dozen or so Home Gatherings. Basically, I asked people to host a group of their church friends so that I could get to know them, learn what they loved at BUMC, and their dreams for the future. Because of those Home Gatherings, I was able to learn pretty quickly about the people of BUMC. Then, when COVID shut everything down a few months later, I was able to use that knowledge to “pastor from afar.”

This fall, we’re bringing back the concept of Home Gatherings as we discern what picture we want to put inside our vision framework—what God is calling us to live into in the next 3-5 years. The gatherings will be slightly different, since the purpose is a bit different. I won’t lead all of them—I’ll host a few, and I’ll guide some of our church leaders so they can lead others. Just like before, we’ll ask different people to host, in order to get a good cross-section of BUMCers. And we’ll have a couple of “Church Home Gatherings” where anyone is welcome to come and participate in the conversation.

Pastor’s column continues on page 11



Enrollment for Confirmation Classes opens August 1st!

Any student in 7th grade and above is joyfully invited to join us to explore what it means to be United Methodist. You may be brand new to the whole "church thing" or looking for a deeper connection to your faith. You may be full of questions and doubts, or absolutely certain that Christianity is for you. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome to come learn and grow with God in a safe space. ***What is Confirmation at Brecksville UMC?*** This personal exploration of what it means to be a Christian, and more specifically, a United Methodist, invites students to dig into scripture, church history, prayer, spiritual development, theology, mission, and the structural connections of the UMC. This learning takes place during our Sunday morning education hour, with individual mentors, during worship, on retreat, and in other avenues throughout the two-year process. The Confirmation journey concludes with students choosing to claim their faith as their own and become full members of the United Methodist Church (or not!) Confirmation is a continuation of baptismal vows that parents make for their children. In this rite of passage, students can now say for themselves, "Yes, I want to follow Jesus and I choose to be a United Methodist."

Lifelong Learning is for Pastors, Too!

Please pray for me the week of Aug. 25-29 as I attend the "Soul Revival Retreat" in Oregon. My leadership coach, Beth Estock, invited me to this retreat back in February, and only God knew how much I would need it! The retreat provides attendees

- ✿ A safe and sacred space to gain perspective and hear what your heart is longing to say.
- ✿ Guided discernment practices to help you move beyond mere survival into a deeper, more sustainable way of leading.
- ✿ Daily reflections on powerful women mystics like St. Brigid, Hildegard von Bingen and Dorothy Day.
- ✿ Rest—true rest—for your body, mind, and soul.

I'm grateful for my continuing education funds that enable me to take this time to step away from the noise and into a sacred pause-- a time of renewal, restoration, and reconnection. While I'm away, pastoral care emergencies will be taken care of by a pastor-friend who lives close by. You can use our pastoral care emergency number to reach them, or simply call the office! - Rev. Heidi Welch

Our hope at Brecksville UMC is that Confirmation can be a safe space for students to grow with God and one another. They can ask questions, explore with curiosity, and find a place in the world (and the church) where they know they can be their authentic selves.

**Ready to go on this journey?
Enrollment for Confirmation
is open NOW!**

*Email youth@brecksvilleumc.com
to express your interest,
enroll or ask questions!*

Youth Group
CVNP Hike

Sunday, August 10

Text "youth" to 833-556-1171
Youth@Brecksvilleumc.com

What's a PEF?

We have the Annual Budget- which covers things like utilities, staff salaries, taxes, and more. And then we have the **Planned Expense Fund** for the things we can predict we'll need, but we can't predict exactly when we'll need them- like building updates, painting, plumbing repairs, and computer upgrades to keep up with ever-changing technology... The PEF is an important part of our church's financial health, and although it's not part of the annual budget, it is part of our annual stewardship. If you are able and want to give to this fund specifically, you can at BUMCLinks.com. Go to "Give Now," and select "Planned Expense Fund" on the Offering drop down. Or, write "Planned Expense Fund" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope, and we'll make sure it gets to the right place. *We are so grateful for gifts that help us keep this Fund healthy and ready for whatever need comes next!*



Parking Lot Repaving Is Here!

Potholes, widening cracks, dips, freeze/thaw damage, and crumbling asphalt. After many years of reliable service, our parking lot asphalt is failing. Further delay would require much more extensive and expensive repairs.

By the time you read this, our contractor will have ground down the old asphalt 2 inches, applied 2 new layers of fresh asphalt, and re-striped the parking lot. In the future, we will have the new lot seal coated every other year, and it should last far into the future.

Leadership Board approved a contract with Infinity Paving of Northfield Center for \$72,400. That was the lowest of 4 bids received. Leadership Board also approved using money from the **Planned Expense Fund** to complete the project. (See sidebar to learn more about the PEF)

After that expense, the Planned Expense Fund will still have \$40,000. To rebuild the Planned Expense Fund for the future of our wonderful church building and parsonage, we hope to replenish that Fund through the upcoming capital campaign.

Good planning and care for our Building on the Square enables all of us to be involved in ministry locally, in the community, and far beyond. It's our springboard for getting off our donkeys and serving others.

Retirement Plan Contribution Corrections

We are extremely grateful that Finance Director, Shannon Kantorowski, discovered a contribution oversight that had been growing for almost 7 years. A number of our employees voluntarily participate in a 403(b) plan that our church participates in. That plan is an equivalent of a 401(k) plan.

For each eligible lay employee who participates at the minimum designated level, Brecksville UMC makes an employer matching contribution. Between our church's prior miscoding of data delivered to our payroll service, and our lack of informing the 403(b) plan that our lay employee's compensation increased each year, our church

under-contributed to the plan. We were stuck contributing at 2017 levels, not at each subsequent

year's actual levels. Contribution errors are actually not unusual. The IRS even has a corrective program for just this type of situation. And the 403(b) plan administrator has an online tool to help calculate the corrective amounts due.

As soon as Leadership Board learned of the problem, we resolved to fully correct it. Using the IRS corrective program as our guide, the church provided additional contributions for the affected employees equal to 50% of the employee's missed voluntary contributions, plus 100% of the church's matching contributions related to the full missed employee contributions, plus an amount equal to the lost earnings for that time period. The total corrective cost was \$12,477.81.

Continues on page 11. See "Retirement"

Brecksville United Methodist Church

Budget Status Report

January 1- June 30, 2025

Percent of year represented by this time period: 50%

REVENUE

Total 4000 OFFERING

4100 OTHER INCOME

4101 Facility Use

4102 Wedding Income

4150 Interest Income

Total 4100 OTHER INCOME

4500 Alternative Revenue Events

Total Revenue

Actual Income	Budget for Year	% of Budget raised to Date
\$ 318,961.04	\$ 583,653.00	54.65%
10,065.00	19,000.00	52.97%
2,350.00	1,000.00	235.00%
2,452.99	8,000.00	30.68%
\$ 14,867.99	\$ 28,000.00	53.10%
\$ 929.90	\$ 20,000.00	4.65%
\$ 334,758.93	\$ 631,653.00	53.00%

EXPENSES

Total 5000 CONFERENCE EXPENSE

Total 5100 ADMISTRATIVE EXPENSE

Total 5200 COST OF STAFFING

Total 6000 CHURCH BUILDING

Total 6100 PARSONAGE

Total 7000 COMMUNICATION & A/V

Total 7200 WORSHIP EXPENSE

Total 7300 MISSIONS/ OUTREACH EXPENSE

Total 7400 MUSIC EXPENSE

Total 7500 EDUCATION EXPENSE

Total 7600 YOUTH EXPENSE

8500 Alternative Revenue Events Expenses

Total Expenditures

Actual Expenses	Budget for Year	% of Budget used to Date
\$ 31,966.08	\$ 63,932.00	50.00%
\$ 21,235.64	\$ 28,528.00	74.44%
\$ 217,352.95	\$ 447,282.00	48.59%
\$ 16,827.12	\$ 51,362.00	32.76%
\$ 12,881.49	\$ 18,651.66	69.06%
\$ 3,460.85	\$ 5,600.00	61.80%
\$ 1,236.72	\$ 2,000.00	61.84%
\$ 8,441.00	\$ 8,441.00	100.00%
\$ 3,918.84	\$ 11,572.00	33.86%
\$ 2,742.30	\$ 6,700.00	40.93%
\$ 608.42	\$ 3,000.00	20.28%
	10,000.00	0.00%
\$ 320,671.41	\$ 657,068.66	48.80%

June 30 Financial Statement

We are pleased to present the June 30 Financial Statement for Brecksville United Methodist Church. We are on track in many categories, even before the main 2025 Alternative Revenue events kick in. We are still projecting a budget deficit for the year, but some progress is being made.

Our Finance Director, Shannon Kantorowski, who joined our staff this year, is helping us in many ways better track our finances. She regularly asks, “why do you do it that way,” and “why is this here?” That has helped us better understand some deeper details about our church’s finances, and make numerous improvements.

Previously, we used a frustratingly antiquated financial software program. We are transitioning to Quickbooks, which is giving us many new capabilities. Quickbooks allows us to generate new reports, and better ways to analyze our data.

Continues on page 7. See “Financial Statement”

5 Reasons To Join the Choir!

1. **Boost Your Well-Being and Spirit.** Singing can reduce stress, enhance your memory. It's a wonderful form of worship that nourishes both your body and soul.
2. **Forge Wonderful Friendships**
3. **Experience the Joy of Making Music Together**
4. **Enhance Your Musical Skills** (No Experience Necessary!)
5. **Contribute to the Heart of Our Worship.** It's a meaningful way to serve our church community and contribute to the spiritual atmosphere of our services.

The Chancel Choir will return to weekly rehearsals beginning on **Thursday, August 28** from 6:30-8 pm. Reach out to machala@brecksvilleumc.com for more information and details about this year's schedule. *More information is to come regarding the start of our Christmas Cantata rehearsals!*



UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 2PM

Through music, we can transcend differences, cross borders and lift our voice to share a global message of **joy, peace, unity and community.**

**BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH SANCTUARY**

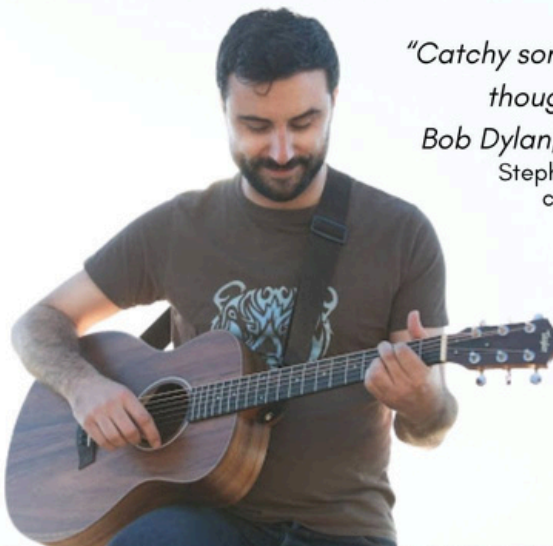
"What a wonderful world!"

www.SingForUnity.com



BOBBY JO VALENTINE

LIVE AT BRECKSVILLE UMC SUNDAY, AUG 17 AT 6 PM



"Catchy songs with good tunes and intelligent, thoughtful lyrics in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce Hornsby."
Stephen Schwartz, Tony award-winning creator of *Godspell* and *Wicked*



*Let's meet up before
or after the show!*

\$10 TICKETS

SCAN HERE ↙



OR VISIT THE OFFICE



Financial Statement, Continued from page 5

With this article is one of the new financial report formats. Our total income/giving is at 53% of budget, which is right on target for half way through the year. And our revenue is slightly over our current expenditures as well. That feels like a win!

Our office and administrative expenses are higher than budget, due to some unexpected computer equipment needs, the full payment of a service contract for the year, and increased fees in keeping some of our financial software open for our annual internal audit for 2024.

Our employee wages and costs are slightly lower than budget, due in great part to the tragic passing of our beloved Dana Schwendeman. We miss Dana dearly. Please think of Dana every time you see a butterfly.

The Missions budget was fully expended to help fund the terrific Rise Against Hunger event, where together we packaged 35,000 meals that have since been shipped to the Philippines. Such fun. Yay BUMC!

As we complete the transition to Quickbooks, and make additional refinements, we may find even better ways to report the information to you. Our goal is for everyone to be informed about our church finances.

If you haven't met Shannon, please drop by the church office on Tuesdays and Sundays, introduce yourself, and feel free to ask any questions you have about BUMC finances. Shannon is delightful, very willing to answer questions, and a great resource.

And please mark your calendars to participate in our upcoming Alternative Revenue events, the Brecksville Flea (August 9), and the Pumpkin Patch (most of October)!

-Yours in Faith, Alan Scheufler, Leadership Board Chair



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH will be starting our Fall programs with a combined meeting of the morning and evening groups on **Wednesday, September 10** at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be making Angel jewelry for cancer patients.

- On Thursday, Oct. 2 at 9:30 am, Brenda Calovini will be giving a talk on the Social Justice history of UWF.
- On Thursday, Nov. 6 at 9:30 am, Kathy & Matt Auble will guide us on a virtual tour of Lake View Cemetery.
- On Thursday, December 4, UWF will have our annual Christmas Luncheon at 12 o'clock noon.

Please join us. Everyone is invited - including men. UWF meetings will be held in the parlor. Any questions call Kathy Sopka 440-821-5203 or email kmineagain@yahoo.com

FALL

KICK OFF

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7



11:30 CHURCH FAMILY PHOTO

Gather in the Sanctuary for one big photo with your church friends!

AFTER THAT, WE EAT!

Grab a burger or hot dog (veggie options!) and fill your plate from the BUMC Buffet in Fellowship Hall. Eat in Fellowship Hall or on the church lawn.



DON'T MISS THE ICE CREAM SUNDIE BAR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!



- Bounce house and yard games on the lawn!
- Visit the info table in the lobby.

HAVE IDEAS? WANT TO HELP?
EMAIL INFO@BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM



Can We Bread on Bridge?

The Missions & Community Engagement Team had set aside every other month to serve *one* community meal at Nehemiah Mission. They host weekly dinners called Bread on Bridge all year long. We would like to host six of those annually, but haven't identified a team lead. **Could you answer this call? For one month or many?** Being a lead entails choosing a Tuesday to serve and recruiting a team of 6 - 8 people to help. Together, you would plan and prep a meal to feed 80-100 at Nehemiah on Bridge Avenue in Cleveland, where there are regular volunteers who can help. The Missions budget covers the cost of food, and given enough notice, food from the Frozen Food ministry can be used! If this is an opportunity that you can get excited about, Marla Knight would love to talk to you about it! Call the office for Marla's number or email

Missions@BrecksvilleUMC.com



Bike Ministry

Do you know someone who has recently retired and looking for a part time "job" with meaning? Or someone who just can't find enough things to fix? Someone looking for a way to give back to the community? Tell them about our Bike Ministry Leader position!

Details at BUMCLinks.com

August School Supply Donation Drive

Donate through Sunday, August 30

School will be starting before we know it, and we can help kids start the school year right! Nehemiah Mission is having a school supply drive to benefit the J.M. Gallagher school in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Let's help every child succeed this year! Donate notebooks, pencils and crayons to the bin on the first floor by August 30.



Brecksville UMC's Mission Barbecue at the Brecksville Flea!

Get ready for some delicious food for a great cause! The Missions & Community Engagement team will be serving up smoked pulled pork

sandwiches with chips and coleslaw at the Brecksville Flea on Saturday, August 9. All proceeds benefit BUMC Missions and our Alternative Revenue Project—so every bite helps make a difference! Want to skip the line? Pre-order your meal through BUMCLinks for easy pickup—either at the Flea or on Sunday morning, August 10. Come hungry, bring a friend, and stop by our booth at the Flea!

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 Sunday, August 3. **Please, no donations before that date!**

As we go to print, Vendor Spots Still Available

Reserve yours at BUMCLinks.com

Tell your friends about this joyful gathering.

Help keep unwanted items out of the landfill.

Come shop! Questions?

Contact the office!





Trials for Hope is an essential ministry serving folks in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland. Brecksville UMC first connected with Trials nearly three years ago, when we donated handmade tie-blankets. Our Missions and Community Outreach Committee was so inspired by the incredible work they were doing that we committed to becoming more involved.

For the past two years, teams of BUMC volunteers have traveled to their church building on Bridge Avenue to help sort food, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies for those in need. The response from our congregation has been amazing—each visit brings new hands and hearts eager to serve!

This summer, even our youngest members got involved. During VBS, the kids packed 160 bags of non-perishable food, 240 diaper kits, and 200 hygiene kits! For many campers, this hands-on service was the highlight of their week. Jonathan from Trials for Hope even stopped by to talk with the kids about hunger and the lack of basic necessities that many of our Cleveland neighbors experience, making the mission activity even more meaningful.

Would you like to learn more about this ministry? Or maybe join us one Saturday as we serve together at their facility? There's always room for more helping hands! Our next date is tentatively set for September 13 from 9:30 to noon. Check the September Good Word and upcoming bulletins for more details.

WHAT'S YOUR GOOD WORD?

Share ideas with melanie@brecksvilleumc.com



PHOTOS OF CHURCH EVENTS
STORIES OF SERVICE
MILESTONES
NEWS



Celebrating One Year of Our Frozen Food Ministry!

This month marks the one-year anniversary of our Frozen Food Ministry—and what a year it has been! What started as a simple idea—gathering leftover restaurant food and sharing it with those in need—has grown into a vibrant ministry touching lives across Northeast Ohio and beyond.

Every Tuesday, a dedicated group of volunteers gathers in the BUMC kitchen to cook and box up warm meals for our unhoused neighbors. These meals are distributed through Trials for Hope, providing nourishment and hope to those who need it most.

Once a month, we help prepare a portion of the hearty community meal served at Lakewood's Church of the Ascension, and each week we connect with the wonderful people at B. Rielly House and Wellsville Community Meals. On occasion, our delicious food also makes its way to Bread on Bridge at the Nehemiah Mission and South Street Ministries.

Through these efforts, relationships are being formed and strengthened—both right here in our BUMC kitchen and in communities across Northeast Ohio, reaching as far south as Wellsville, a village on the Ohio River in Columbiana County!

This ministry truly takes a village. We are deeply thankful for our weekly pickup volunteers—Brian, Becky, Abigail, Kathy, Matt, Dave and John; our Tuesday chefs—Bob, Maggie, Heidi, Paul, Ric, Julie, Ann, Matt and Kathy; our monthly meal team—Matt, Craig, Paul, Ric and George; and for Melanie, who faithfully transports food each week to those in need in Wellsville.

Thank you for making this first year such a success. Here's to many more years of sharing food, hope, and love!



COURAGEOUS INCLUSION

More Than A Name Tag

You might think a church name tag is just a small Sunday detail, but it's actually a quiet, powerful form of welcome and inclusion. Wearing your name tag says, ***"I see you. I'm open to connection. You belong here, too."*** For a newcomer, a name can be the first doorway to feeling at home. It lowers the barrier, breaks the ice, and makes space for meaningful community.

Our Youth Director, Dana Schwendeman, was a model of courageous inclusion and faithful about wearing her name tag. Let's follow her beautiful example.

We have name tag options! We can make a nametag just for you (with a magnet back or a pin back) that can be used again and again. If you forget your tag, or it's your first time here, write your own nametag on a sticker Sunday morning.

Order a name tag today! Email hello@brecksvilleumc.com and tell us what name you would like on your tag. If you would like to share your pronouns, let us know what they are.

This Sunday, don't forget your name tag! Put it on with purpose. Because ***welcome starts with you!***



Dana, Easter Sunday 2025

Perhaps, like the poet, you prefer anonymity. Perhaps wearing a nametag can help you find your people!

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you – Nobody – too?
Then there's a pair of us!
Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!
How dreary – to be – Somebody!
How public – like a Frog –
To tell one's name – the livelong June –
To an admiring Bog!
- Emily Dickinson

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HONEST WORSHIP



Holy Meltdowns Sermon Series

Have you noticed that there seem to be a lot of big emotions in the world right now? In this series, we'll take a look at some examples in scripture when people of faith had big emotions—Moses hitting a rock, Jonah getting bitter, Jesus flipping tables, and more. We'll see how God worked in or through these "holy meltdowns" and think about how God works through us, too.



10



Lewis To Preach, August 31

Rev. Angela Lewis, superintendent of the Northern Waters District, will present the message during our worship services on Sunday, August 31! Prior to being appointed to the Cabinet in 2021, she served as pastor of Doylestown UMC as well as Steubenville Simpson UMC, Maple Heights UMC, Cleveland St. Paul UMC, All God's Children, and Mansfield Urban Mission in the East Ohio Conference before serving seven years at Burns UMC in the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Born and raised in Oklahoma, Lewis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from HBCU Langston (OK) University, a Master of Arts in Secondary Administration from The University of Akron, and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Lewis is an encourager who tries to see the good in every situation. One of her favorite passages is Joshua 1:9, our theme verse from this year's Vacation Bible School! ***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."***



Church Beyond Walls, Continued from front page

this year to add a mission station, where the kids packed 1,350 food items, 1,400 diapers & wipes and about 200 hygiene kits for Trials for Hope.

These and other events are opportunities for BUMC to engage with our community, which is one of BUMC's goals: To establish new and deeper relationships with 100 people from our communities. This leads me to our capital campaign. Yes, our building and our grounds require maintenance, and our building is an important part of our ministry. Recently, Heidi, the Capital Campaign Work Group; and the Leadership Board have taken time to re-think our approach to the capital campaign. As we ask members of our church family to contribute to the needs of our church building and our ministries, we want to be sure we are intentional about the campaign. We believe we need to seek input from community members, consultants and, most important, you. This will delay our timing, but we believe it is important to do our homework about all the ways we can improve our building and use it to connect with the community in ways we haven't even imagined yet. Stay tuned ... we will provide more information soon.

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

Retirement, Continued from page 4

In addition, Shannon discovered that through other miscoded data the church sent to our payroll service, we actually over-withheld from Pastor Heidi's pay a total of \$7,349.36. Leadership Board likewise resolved to correct that situation too.

Both amounts have been fully paid and corrected! BUMC used money that was donated to our Church from Sally Bibler's estate for the payment. We continue to be blessed by Sally Bibler's love for our Church Family and the special gift she made in her Will.

On behalf of the whole Leadership Board, thank you Shannon for spotting these obscure amounts. Your attention to detail helped us all be faithful to each other, and to do the right thing for our terrific employees. - *Alan Schenfler, Leadership Board Chair*

Pastor's Column, continued from page 2

We'll also have a Google Form for those who can't attend in person. (Maybe we'll even have a Zoom one?)

Here are the questions we'll talk about:

- If you were mayor of your community, what's the first thing you would do to make life better for you or someone you love?
- Could you imagine ways BUMC could be part of a solution?
- If you were to ask a friend, what would they say about BUMC?
- Where do you sense God moving?

Our goal with these gatherings is to learn from one another and see if we can discover a few threads that are woven throughout the various conversations. Are things repeated? Where is God already moving? How can we join in that holy work?

We'll share specific gathering dates shortly, but for now, I invite you to pray over these questions and maybe talk to a friend or two about them.

May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference, so that through God's grace, we're able to do what others claim cannot be done!

Take care,

Pastor Heidi

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

August BIRTHDAYS



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

Week of August 3

Mary Jane Opatrny

It's her birthday!

7768 Coachman Ct
Brecksville, OH 44141-1016

Week of August 10

Beverly Gooding

It's her birthday!

67 Walden Ridge Dr
Hinckley, OH 44233-9276

Week of August 17

Write to a student or teacher you know, letting them know that you're praying for them as the school year begins!

Week of August 24

Bob Snyderwine

It's his birthday!

1453 Ashford Glen Ln
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067-1683

Week of August 31

Tony Petro

It's his birthday!

7330 Case Ave
Mentor, OH 44060-5719

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

Email Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com

1 Sally Jones	8 Jeffrey Mihalich	20 Kyle Romance
1 Tish Kwiatkowski	10 Valorie Bender	20 Roger Wadsworth
2 Susan Hurst	10 Nora Cooper	20 Rob Wilson
2 Katrina Orr	10 Grace Santora	21 Grace Auble
2 Nick Orr	10 Ryan Shijo	21 Emma Miller
3 Chris Davis	11 Beth Dadas	21 Jill Zawada
3 Bennett Eberhardt	11 Maddie Holt	22 Charlie Custer
3 Karen Fisher	11 Erin Lee	22 Amelia Samblanet
3 Jeff Hastings	11 Lori Rusterholtz	22 Ann Zupanc
3 Gabriel Vastartis	11 Kim Vann	23 Megan Juniper
3 Steven Vastartis	12 Trey Shively	26 Helen Lee
3 J.T. Zawada	12 Mark Vastartis	26 Bob Snyderwine
4 Kristi Eberhardt	14 Aleyna Gambone	27 Bridget Gee
4 Joan Filips	14 Beverly Gooding	27 Grace Mullins
4 Judy Novak	15 Kathy Auble	28 Oliver Bellone
5 George Smith, Jr.	15 Chuck Gezze	29 Jamie Hocutt
5 Karen Walburn	16 Lindsay Lyons	29 Hilary Houff
6 Lily Jatsek	18 Emma Santora	29 James Lesinski
7 Brooke Barnum	19 Robin Engler	31 Tony Petro
7 Sally Crist	19 Joan Olszko	31 Andrew Scott
7 Mary Jane Opatrny		

**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 our team of volunteers who served on our Habitat for

Humanity Faith Build Team on June 26 - Kim, Matt & Braxton Vann; Marla & Mike Knight; Michael Houff, Jeff Fessler & Jinho Lee made great progress on a brand new home for a partner family. You are making a lasting difference in the life of the family and the neighborhood. Thank you all! We can't list all 39 families and individuals who became VBS sponsors, or all 70 people who volunteered, but together, you helped make VBS in the Park one of the best weeks of the summer for so many kids and their families! Some of the volunteers put the "vacation" into Vacation Bible School by taking time off of work. You are each amazing! Speaking of amazing, Michael Gezze's theme art helps remind us all that **God is with us, wherever we go.** Thank you, Michael. (Want a t-shirt? We're doing a second print run. Contact the office by August 3 for details!) And last but not least, Kim Vann dreamed up some fun for our July Youth Group get together – Human Hungry Hippo and a fantastic pool noodle tag. Thanks, Kim, for making every gathering more joyful. Thank you, God, for these servant hearts! Amen!

JULY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>Let's lift up a prayer of thanks for the members of our mowing team! August 3 - M. Botzman/Meyer August 10 - P Botzman/Spencer August 17 - Brown/Sendrey August 24 - Auble/Gee</p>					1	2 10-2 BBH Swim Team Car Wash 
3 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 10:30 Worship <i>Happy Birthday, Jeff Hastings!</i>	4 10:30 Lectio Divina	5 10:30 Staff Mtg 10:30 Mission Food Prep 2:30 Communion Chippewa Place	6 6:30 Breakfast	7 	8	BRECKSVILLE FLEA @BUMC 
Drop off Donations for Flea						
10 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 10:30 Worship with Baptism <i>Summer Youth Group 5-7</i>	11 10:30 Lectio Divina	12 10:30 Staff Mtg 10:30 Mission Food Prep	13 6:30 Breakfast 1 Staff Consultation Meeting	14 7:30 Leadership Board 	15	16
17 Blessing of the Backpacks 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 10:30 Worship 6 Bobby Jo Valentine 	18 10:30 Lectio Divina	19 10:30 Staff Mtg 10:30 Mission Food Prep 5-8 Sew4Good	20 6:30 Breakfast Newsletter Deadline! FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 	21 	22 9:30 UWF Board Meeting	23
24 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 10:30 Worship	25 10:30 Lectio Divina	26 10:30 Staff Mtg 10:30 Mission Food Prep	27 6:30 Breakfast 10 Newsletter Production Party	28  Choir Season Begins! First Rehearsal Tonight at 6:30 <i>All are welcome!</i>	29	30
Pastor Heidi at Soul Revival Retreat						
31 8:30 Worship 9:30 Gathering 10:30 Worship <i>Rev. Angela Lewis DS, Preaches!</i>	1 	2 10:30 Staff Mtg 10:30 Mission Food Prep 2:30 Communion Chippewa Place	3 6:30 Breakfast	4 6:30 Choir 8:30 Worship Band	5	6

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, welcome, expected and
accepted here, exactly as you are.*

BACKPACK BLESSING

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 17**
8:30 AND 10:30 AM

Surrounding students, teachers, and
educational support staff with prayer and
blessings as the school year begins.



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.