

@BrecksvilleUMC

# THE GOOD WORD

September 2025

## A Little Good Word

This issue of *The Good Word* is intentionally small as it is being published in conjunction with our Fall/Winter Spiritual Trail Guide for 2025. Read the Trail Guide for information about September events, and learn more in our weekly bulletins, e-news and on our website, BrecksvilleUMC.com.

## September Events

- **9/7 Fall Kick Off:** One worship service at 10:30. Potluck picnic follows!
- **9/10 UWF & Eve Circle** make earrings for victims of human trafficking.
- **9/13 Trails for Hope Work Day**
- **9/14 New program year begins!** Bible Sunday. Classes for all ages. Youth Group returns.
- **9/20 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build**
- **9/21 Sing for Unity** at 2 pm
- **9/28 Final Worship on the Lawn** of the Season. Help unload the pumpkin truck after the 10:30 service!
- **9/29 - 10/31 Pumpkin Patch** open daily 11 am - 7 pm. *What shifts will you volunteer to fill?*

## GCC - Supporting Positive Change in our Community

Two years ago, an organizer with the Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) met with our Missions and Community Engagement Committee (now Team) to invite BUMC to join GCC. At the same time, our District Superintendent was encouraging United Methodist congregations to become part of GCC.

GCC is a nonpartisan organization of 38 churches, synagogues, and religious organizations who work collaboratively to advocate for positive change in the Greater Cleveland area. GCC was established in 2011 and is affiliated with sister organizations in other cities.

We started attending their meetings. We met with people within our own congregation and with people who are members of GCC institutions. We formed a GCC ministry team within BUMC and began to informally support some GCC initiatives.

In August, our Leadership Board, with the support of our Missions and Community Engagement Team and our GCC Team, voted unanimously for BUMC to join GCC.

GCC focuses on building personal relationships with each other, with members of our community, and with those who have the power to implement change. Over the years, GCC has supported efforts to improve access to healthcare, to promote fairness in our criminal justice system, to help empower individuals to become voters, and to generally help those who are underserved and underrepresented.

As we learned during Pastor Heidi's recent sermon series our United Methodist Social Principles encourage us to equip our members to be effective advocates for justice in the world, to assist those in need, and to work to eradicate unjust practices, policies, and systems – all actions that are part of GCC's mission.

BUMC has a long tradition of engaging in mission to help those in need. Our involvement with GCC will complement our mission work by giving us opportunities to join with others to support systemic changes which are necessary to build a more just community. This will be another way we can get off our donkeys and live out our United Methodist Social Principles!

To learn more about GCC or find out how you can get involved, talk with Pastor Heidi, Jim Slagle, Kathy Dickreide, Deb Watkins, Brenda Colvini, Linda Moore, Mark Moore, Ina Ladich, Janet Kleckner, or Anthy Morgan-Imes or visit their website: [www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org](http://www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org).

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**NEW Submission deadline**  
**3rd WEDNESDAY monthly**  
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## With gratitude...

On behalf of the Petro and Schwendeman families, I want to take a moment to offer my sincere gratitude to the community of Brecksville United Methodist Church for the outpouring of love and support that you have shown us over the last four months following Dana's death.

Beginning her work at Brecksville UMC nine years ago was the realization of a dream for Dana. She cared so deeply about how faith and spirituality are communicated to young people in the church. Dana did everything in her power to ensure that her students felt seen and loved. From her undergrad studies focusing in pre-ministry and young adult literature, to her work in seminary refining her ideas about youth ministry and inclusion, Dana aimed her every intention at creating lasting communities that support and celebrate young people. She was so proud of the students of Brecksville UMC both currently in the youth group and those who've graduated. She found such joy watching students grow together and as individuals, and loved the privilege of being able to play a part in that process.

In our early twenties, as we joined this community, we could not imagine the impact and growth that we would experience. This church loved and supported Dana and me over nearly a decade providing space to explore both creatively and professionally. Cheering us on as we would take chances in music ministry, Dana's reading of the poetry prayers, leading intergenerational Sunday school classes and any number of other ways, and offering a shoulder to lean on through times that felt less like success. Over that time we were fortunate enough to develop deep friendships and a strong support system. Seeing us through seemingly never ending apartment hunts, the isolation of a global pandemic, and the ups and downs of being human.

That support system showed up for me and the Petros day one sitting with us in the grief of Dana's passing. Helping make her service feel so personal with her favorite foods (matzoh ball soup and charcuterie). In the months following, our community has held us in love in so many different ways from the generous donations to the Dana Love Fund to texts/calls, book recommendations, prayers, hugs, meals shared, or just offering to spend time together. Without the support and love from our church community, both quite recent and over the past decade, I cannot say where I would be in processing my grief and loss. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you, BUMC.

With love and gratitude,  
Jamie Schwendeman



# September BIRTHDAYS

1 Samantha Bellone	11 Jinho Lee	24 Russ Dieringer
1 Luke Dorman	13 Jessica Vastartis	24 Anne Rosenthal
1 Alan Jones	14 Doug Huth	25 Kayla Cramblett
1 Mary Kaminski	16 Claire Hayes	25 Kelly Cramblett
1 Elizabeth Mathewson	16 Nikolai Vastartis	26 Brett Hubert
3 Ann Rittman	17 Kathy Bartholomew	26 Owen Paroda
4 Marilyn Huber	17 Ash Watkins	26 Austin Pribble
4 Augie Mihalek	18 Gary Traicoff	26 Mary Reid
4 Tim Miller	18 Charles Wilson	26 Jeff Schillo
5 Harry Wilson	19 Joshua Stacher	27 Kathy Holmes
6 David Teare	19 Emily Vastartis	27 Jeannie McBride
8 Max Mellott	19 Meredith Weber	28 Matt Harper
8 Quinn Slifcak	20 Janet Gravette	28 Mary Jane Matts
9 Megan Burns	20 Claire Kenney	29 Matt Harper
9 Joe Hurst	20 James Patrick	29 Amy Magee
9 Jennifer Mathewson	20 Brody Skoda	29 Cameron Richardson
9 Ellie Ritterbusch	21 Audrey Fowler	30 Kaiya Crouch
9 Sandy Whitton	22 Shannon Kantorowski	30 Ella Davis
10 Tonya Boldt	23 Gianna Hricko	30 Craig Kotnik
10 Jackie Daugherty	23 Emma Sak	

*\*If you would like to be added to - or to opt out of - the monthly birthday list, please email [melanie@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto: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 Catherine & Mark Vastartis, who opened their home and invited the congregation for a pool party. A good time was had by all! Our Climate Action Mission Team of 8 people traveled safely to North Carolina and back, joining a group of volunteers from Ohio to assist in recovery efforts after last year's floods. Thank you Brian, Becky and Abigail Bendlak; Michelle Orr, Matt & Cathy Auble and Jenny & George Gee for giving so generously of your time and talents! Maria Shurik has been able to step in and fill last minute needs on the welcome team and her help has been truly God sent. She and Catherine Vastartis helped with Sprouts when Jenny was away. Kim Vann lead Children's Moment during Jenny's time away, too. Thank you all for helping to create space for staff renewal! The Noggles and Pribbles lead our final summer youth group outing, bringing the kids together for a little picnic, hiking and ice cream before the new school year started. Using our God-given gifts to serve one another is one way we show our love for God. Thank you for living out this call with us!



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

Week of September 7

**Elinor Rowan**

*Has a new address.*

7005 Stadium Drive Apt 213  
Brecksville, OH 44141

Week of September 14

**Doug Huth**

*It's his birthday this week!*

8462 Edgelake Oval  
Northfield, OH 44067-1017

Week of September 21

**Mary Reid**

*It's her birthday this week!*

1830 Hampton Run  
Broadview Hts., OH 44147-3290

Week of September 28

**Don & Kathy Krolikowski**

*Celebrating 40 years  
of marriage this month*

6408 Hillside Rd  
Independence, OH 44131-5336

*Nominate someone who could use a reminder  
that they are loved and kept in prayer!  
Email [Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com)*



AUGUST

2025













OCTOBER

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

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						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>  <b>HAPPY LABOR DAY</b>	<b>2</b> Staff Meeting 10:30 Food Prep 2pm Chippewa Communion 2:30	<b>3</b> Dawnbreakers Breakfast, 6:30	<b>4</b>  Choir, 6:30 pm Band, 8:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <i>Dana was born on this day in 1990</i>
<b>7</b> <b>10:30 One Worship Service today!</b> 	<b>8</b> Lectio Divina, 10:30	<b>9</b> Staff Meeting 10:30 Food Prep 2pm	<b>10</b> Dawnbreakers Breakfast, 6:30 UWF & Eve Circle, 6:30	<b>11</b>  Choir, 6:30 pm Leadership Board, 7:30 pm Band, 8:30 pm	<b>12</b> Ice Cream Social at Chippewa Place, 12 pm	<b>13</b>  <b>TRIALS for HOPE</b> <i>Workday 9 - noon</i>
<b>14</b> <b>8:30 Worship on the Lawn</b> 9:30 Classes, all ages <b>10:30 Worship</b> 5-7 Youth Group 	<b>15</b> Lectio Divina, 10:30	<b>16</b> Stitch'n'Time 10 am Staff Meeting 10:30 Food Prep 2pm Sew4Good, 5-8 	<b>17</b> Dawnbreakers Breakfast, 6:30 <i>Newsletter deadline!</i>	<b>18</b>  Choir, 6:30 pm Band, 8:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Greater Cleveland <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> <i>Faith Build 8:30 am - 3 pm</i>
<b>21</b> <b>8:30 Worship on the Lawn</b> 9:30 Classes, all ages <b>10:30 Worship</b> 2 Sing for Unity! 5-7 Youth Group	<b>22</b> Lectio Divina, 10:30 Holy Hell Book Discussion, 7 pm <i>Happy Birthday, Shannon!</i>	<b>23</b> Staff Meeting 10:30 Food Prep 2pm District SPRC Consultations here, 4-8 pm	<b>24</b> Dawnbreakers Breakfast, 6:30	<b>25</b>  Choir, 6:30 pm Band, 8:30 pm  BBH Pride Transgender Truth, 7 pm	<b>26</b> UWF Board Meeting, 9:30	<b>27</b>

**28**  
**8:30 Worship on the Lawn**  
 9:30 Classes, all ages  
**10:30 Worship**  
 5-7 Youth Group

**29**  
 Lectio Divina, 10:30  
 Holy Hell, 7 pm

**30**  
 Staff Meeting 10:30  
 Food Prep 2pm

*Let's lift up a prayer of thanks for the members of our mowing team!*  
 Week of September 1 - M. Botzman/Meyer  
 Week of September 7 - P. Botzman/Spencer  
 Week of September 14 - Brown/Sendrey  
 Week of September 21 - Auble/Gee  
 And then Pumpkins Fill the Lawn and we're done for the season!



Find calendar updates at [www.BrecksvilleUMC.com/calendar](http://www.BrecksvilleUMC.com/calendar)