



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINCE 1814

Spiritual TRAIL GUIDE FALL 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

When I was in my early 20s, I was looking for a part-time job to have while I finished my undergraduate degree. My (future) father-in-law, Ash, suggested I apply for a Youth Director position at a local United Methodist Church. My response: “I don’t like working with youth.” He asked, “Have you ever worked with youth?” When I reluctantly said, “...no...” he challenged me not to assume I wouldn’t like it, but give it a try. “At the very least, apply and see if you get an interview.”

Long story short, I got the job and learned that working with youth is one of my gifts and actually a great joy. Teenagers are imbued with a healthy dose of skepticism and can tell when someone isn’t being authentic or all-together truthful. (And they’re not afraid to call you on it, either!) They’re often comfortable with asking questions and are open to learning different viewpoints (at least more so than most adults). And they don’t take themselves too seriously, so they find my sarcasm and goofiness entertaining.

My years in youth ministry taught me important lessons about faith:

- “It’s not all about you, Pastor Heidi!”
- Authenticity and openness will expand your faith, while certainty will stifle it.
- Spending time with someone is never a waste, and ice cream can always make a bad day better.

Years later, I took a Spiritual Gifts Inventory and learned that my gifts of wisdom and shepherding (combined with my personality and interests) are what make working with youth so life-giving for me. When I shared this with Ash, he said, “Yeah, I know. That’s why I suggested you do it!”

Again and again, people tell me, “I want to grow in my faith but I just don’t know what to do!” And while I would love to sit down with each and every person and help you figure that out, that’s just not realistic. So, we’ve retooled this year’s Spiritual Trail Guide to help you discern this for yourself!

In the pages of this guide, you’ll find a link to a Spiritual Gifts Inventory, and information on how various gifts correspond to different ways of serving and growing as a disciple here at BUMC. Our dear Dana created most of these resources for our New Member class last year. But we want everyone—not just those who are members or becoming members—to learn how God created them with unique gifts to bring joy to themselves and others! If you take the inventory and find yourself going, “Hmm...” then give me a call—I’ll use my gift of discernment to help!

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

Explore Your Spiritual Gifts



SCAN HERE

You are gifted. You have a purpose. Discover your gifts today!

About the Spiritual Gifts Inventory: God has made each of us wonderfully unique and calls us to be part of one body in Christ, each member serving with a purpose. By exploring the spiritual gifts God has given you, you can discover ways to serve that not only bless others but also bring you joy and fulfillment. The UMC's Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a tool to help you name those gifts and imagine how they might be used in the life of the church and beyond. Take the inventory, and see where God might be inviting you to share your gifts. Scan the QR Code or visit BUMCLinks.com to begin. (Find the link in the Lifelong Learning section.)

My top three gifts:

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one.

Romans 12:4-5

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

**Where has God blessed you, given you a gift? And what have you done with that gift?
How have you accepted the responsibility that goes with it?**

Brain

You like to think through problems and solutions. Wisdom, Discernment, Leadership, Helping

Mouth

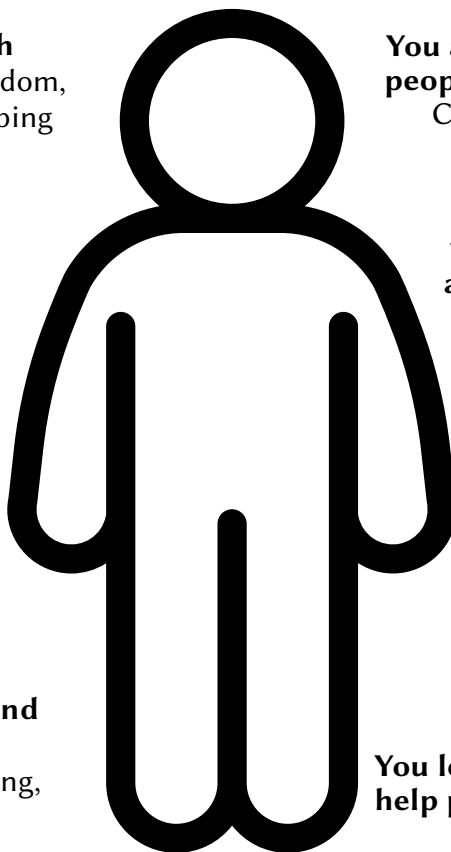
You enjoy talking to people. Witnessing gifts include: Prophecy, Teaching, Evangelism, Exhortation

Hand

You love to help others. Outreaching Gifts include: Apostleship, Working Miracles, Compassion, Healing, Servanthood

Stomach

You are passionate about food and feeding others. Feeding Gifts include: Compassion, Faith, Helping, Exhortation, Helping, Giving



Ear

You are a great listener and care about people's needs. Listening gifts include: Compassion, Discernment, Helping

Heart

You aren't afraid to show people your emotions and love people just as they are. Nurturing Gifts include: Wisdom, Shepherding, Exhortation, Helping, Discernment, Faith, Compassion

Leg

You may not love to be center stage but supporting others in their projects makes you really happy. Organizing Gifts include: Knowledge, Administration, Giving, Helping, Wisdom

Foot

You love to travel and go places in order to help people. Your gifts include: Apostleship, Faith, Giving, Miracles

How to use your gifts through Brecksville UMC:

Learn more about each of these opportunities in this trail guide!

ADMINISTRATION

- Help with projects in the office
- Join us for the newsletter assembly party
- Help with registration at VBS

APOSTLESHIP

- Travel with a Volunteer in Mission team
- Volunteer with youth (or elders) and learn how your faith can translate to Gen Z (or Boomers)

COMPASSION

- Serve on the Funeral Reception Team
- Volunteer on the next Trials for Hope Work Day
- Help out with the Frozen Food ministry

DISCERNMENT

- Learn about Leadership Board and visioning for the future of BUMC
- Join an Adult Education Class and share your thoughts about world events, theology, and other interests you may have

EVANGELISM

- Become a mentor in our Confirmation program
- Volunteer at the Home Days BUMC booth

EXHORTATION

- Every single ministry needs you!
- Lead the Bike Ministry
- Send cards to our Care & Prayer Mail recipients

FAITH

- Lend your gifts to the Congregational Care Team
- Subscribe to the Prayer Chain and pray for those who need some extra love
- Join the Green Team and put your faith into action through creation care

GIVING

- Serve on the Stewardship Team or Capital Campaign Work Group
- Chat with Matt Gabor about the “Close the Gap” efforts of the Alternative Revenue Team
- Serve in the Pumpkin Patch

HEALING

- Join the Congregational Care Team
- Look into ways you can continue and grow Dana’s Spiritual First Aid Work
- Check out the Courageous Inclusion events throughout the year

HELPING

- Join the Worship Arts or Worship Tech Team
- Join the Meal Train or Gopher lists
- Join the Communion Steward Team or Welcoming Team

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- Join the Worship Band
- Help out on the Joyful Gathering Team
- Be a reader for the Advent Wreath Lighting

KNOWLEDGE

- Help teach Sprouts or Sunday School
- Volunteer to lead an adult ed class

LEADERSHIP

- Check out what Leadership Board is all about
- Join the Welcome Team
- Talk to Pastor Heidi about the Leadership Development & Nominations Team

MIRACLES

- Join the Prayer chain and pray for those in need
- Gather with the Prayer Circle at the front of the Sanctuary after the 10:30 am service

PROPHECY

- Be a liturgist in worship
- Join the Lectio Divina group on Mondays
- Participate in the podcast class!

SERVANTHOOD

- Help get our Green Team up and running
- Serve on a regular Sunday morning rotation for morning coffee, welcome team, or communion.

SHEPHERDING

- Become a Confirmation mentor
- Teach during Sprouts
- Help out in the Wiggle Room
- Chat with Jenny about spiritual direction

TEACHING

- Talk with Jenny about teaching an adult class
- Teach during the 9:30 kids learning hour
- Help out at the Christmas Extravaganza
- Learn about bike repair and teach others through bike ministry

WISDOM

- Volunteer with youth
- Take a class with Pastor Heidi
- Check out BUMC’s online Bookshop

Learn more about Spiritual Gifts: brecksvilleumc.com/spiritual-gifts/

MINISTRY TEAMS

The real success of BUMC lies in the hands and hearts of our Ministry Teams. That is where we put our vision framework into action! The Ministry Team Tree organizes all our teams into leaves for each of our BUMC values, and soil which gives us the foundation and nutrients to grow (church property & finances). Some are ongoing teams, like the Welcome Team, and Church Property Care Team, and others are short-term work groups tasked with a specific project, like the annual audit.

Each and every person at BUMC is challenged to "get off their donkey" and put their spiritual gifts into practice by serving on a Ministry Team!

LEADERSHIP BOARD

The Leadership Board focuses on strategic planning, mission, vision, and governance, empowering other leaders and teams to engage in direct ministry while remaining accountable to the board.



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

Read about the Leadership Board's Guiding Principles and more at
BrecksvilleUMC.com/2025LeadershipBoard

Eat Your Green Beans

I remember a family dinner when I was in second grade. Green beans were on my plate. Yuck. In my stubbornness, I sat at the table the rest of the night staring at those green things. I went to bed without dessert and felt like I had achieved something for not having given in to eating those beans. My parents had me sit there not as a punishment, but rather to help me learn to expand my palate and making healthy choices. I say this as an adult thinking I would have told myself to just eat those beans. They're good for you and you'll learn to appreciate them over time. Learning to appreciate healthy food is in anyone's best interest. Who would guess I eventually turned out to be a foodie? Green beans are still not my favorite.

This Field Guide has a smattering of green beans for all of us, as well as chicken, rice, and the occasional ice cream. One might think that volunteering for a mission project helps those in need. "I'll stare at my plate and hopefully someone else will deal with it." In reality, helping others helps us understand Christ through service. One might want to stay in one's bed on Sunday morning to avoid the latest class before church service (those brussels sprouts are getting cold). In reality, there is so much more to learn from extracurricular Bible studying and getting insights from a faithful community.

I encourage you to consider getting involved with what's on the menu in this guide. It is because of you and for you that we have the chance to grow healthily in Christ through joyful gathering, determined service, lifelong learning, courageous inclusion, and..... and..... what's that other one on my plate again?

-Submitted by Michael Houff, Leadership Board



Brecksville United Methodist Church

MINISTRY TEAMS

**CREATING
SAFE
SPACES
TO GROW
WITH GOD
AND ONE
ANOTHER**

Joyful Gathering

Sunday Hospitality
Welcome Team
Funerals
Fall Kick Off
Pot Lucks
Parties
Meals

Determined Service

Missions &
Community
Engagement

Feeding Ministries
Donation Drives
Hands on Mission
Bike Fix It

Meal Train
Congregational
Care
Visitation
Gophers

Lifelong Learning

Wiggle Room
Education
VBS

Youth Team
Confirmation
Youth Missions
Adult Classes
Spiritual Direction

Honest Worship

Music Ministry
AV Team

Worship Arts
Communion Stewards
Acolytes

Courageous Inclusion

Sensory Sensitivity
BBH Pride
Disability Ministry
Diversity

New
Ideas!

United
Women
in Faith

Work
Teams

Church Property
Care Teams
Church Grounds
Church Building
Parsonage

**LEADERSHIP
BOARD**

Leadership Development
& Nominations

Finance

Audit
Stewardship
Budget

Gifts &
Memorials





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 Direction

Are you longing for a deeper connection with God or seeking clarity about where God is leading you? Spiritual direction offers a safe, sacred space for prayerful conversation. A spiritual director is a trained, compassionate listener who will walk alongside you on your journey—helping you notice God's presence and activity in your everyday life, and inviting you to reflect on your own responses. This ministry nurtures your prayer life, supports you through seasons of discernment, and encourages you to live fully into your calling as a follower of Jesus.



Small Groups

We're kicking off small groups this fall with a Leadership Training Group in October. Groups can help us dive deep into mature discipleship together, and help us learn to know and care for one another with vulnerability, commitment, and openness. Interested in leading or participating? It's not too late for either! Both Leadership Training and Group Formation will be ongoing.



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.



Death Over Dinner, Saturday November 1 at 5 pm

How we want to die represents the most important conversations we're not having. Death Over Dinner is an uplifting interactive adventure that transforms this seemingly difficult conversation into one of deep engagement, insight and empowerment. Melanie and Anthy are hosting this event and invite you to gather together to start a conversation that may be (end of) life changing.



SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Adult & Teen Faith Formation Groups

Our classes are intergenerational and foster mutual spiritual support, accountability, and growth in discipleship. These groups provide encouragement, a place for open discussion about faith, and a structure for watching over one another in love, ensuring no one is lost in the community and promoting the practice of holiness.



The Daily Examen: Practicing Gratitude, Noticing God

Sundays, 9.14-10.19 at 9:30 am in the Chapel

More than just a study, this will be a practice—one we'll live out together over the course of the class. Each day, you'll be invited to pause and prayerfully reflect, noticing moments of joy, challenge, and God's quiet nudges. When we gather on Sundays, we'll share our experiences, encourage one another, and grow in our awareness of the sacred woven into our ordinary days



Podcast Class Sundays at 9:30

What might we discover when we explore our big questions through the lens of faith? Join this class as we listen to a selected podcast during the week, then gather to reflect, question, and seek where God might be leading us.



Lectio Divina Mondays at 10:30 am in the Chapel

Each week, we rest with one passage of scripture—slowing down enough to truly listen. Through prayer and guided reflection, we'll open our minds to God and engage our holy imagination, picturing ourselves within these sacred stories. This gentle practice helps scripture come alive and invites us into a more personal, transformative encounter with God.



Holy Hell Book Discussion Mondays at 7 pm September 22 - October 13

What if everything we thought we knew about Hell was wrong? We're continuing our discussion of the book by Rev. Derek Kubilus from last spring - but anyone can join at anytime!



Sacred Sound Bath Experience Friday, October 17 at 7 pm

Step away from the noise of everyday life and rest in the healing presence of sound. In this one-hour experience, you'll be surrounded by the soothing tones of crystal singing bowls, rainsticks, Koshi chimes, an ocean drum, and a resonant gong. These gentle, layered sounds invite your body to relax, your mind to quiet, and your spirit to open to God's peace. As you rest in the soundscape, you'll be encouraged to simply notice—how your breath slows, how your heart softens, how God's presence feels near. It's a time of centering prayer through sound, creating space for renewal and deep spiritual rest.



The Membership Journey

The Christian faith was never intended to be a solo journey. Church membership is an expression of our faith in God, our desire to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, and commitment to join with our church community to keep the vows made at baptism. How are you living out your promises to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness? Start the membership journey and learn what it means to be a United Methodist and a member of Brecksville United Methodist Church.

Basic Beliefs - Sundays at 9:30, September 14 - October 12

A 5-week class focused on exploring the roots of the Methodist movement. Learn the amazing history of The UMC, including the challenges we've had along the way.

Membership Class - October 19 - November 2

This 3-week class builds on what you learned in Basic Beliefs, and focuses on what it means for you to be an active member of this local church, 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.

Interested in starting this journey? 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. Boys' Flight is January 17-19 2026, and the Girls' Flight is February 14-16 2026.



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. Women's Walk is October 2-5 2025. Men's Walk is October 23-26 2025

Sign up: BUMCLinks.com ● Connect: [Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com](mailto>Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com) ● Call: 440-526-8938

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).



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!

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. BUMC earns a commission from books sold through the BookShop platform, but it's also a great place to learn about books to request from the library, your favorite local bookstore or a friend's collection.



Check it out at [**Bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC**](https://Bookshop.org/shop/BrecksvilleUMC)

There's a display in the church Parlor with staff reading recommendations!



SCAN



FIND IT AT BUMCLINKS.COM

All of our links, sign ups, and downloads are in one place! Use your phone camera to scan the QR code or visit www.BUMCLinks.com



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!

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, Sep. 10 at 6:30 pm a special joint meeting of UWF and Eve Circle will be making angel jewelry for victims of human trafficking.
- Thursday, Oct. 2 - Brenda Calovini will be giving a talk on the Social Justice history of UWF.
- Sunday, Oct. 19 - Bake sale for the UWF Mission Fund. Bakers wanted!
- Thursday, Nov. 6 - Kathy & Matt Auble will guide us on a virtual tour of Lake View Cemetery.
- On Thursday, December 4, Christmas Luncheon at 12 o'clock noon



Asbury Bremeth Circle - Second Thursday of the Month.

Women of faith gather for meaningful conversation (bring your own beverage) at 9:30 then begin our study with Jenny Gee at 10.

- September: The Parable of The Wedding Party
- October: The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
- November: We start Radicle Methodism which takes a deep look at the foundational roots of the United Methodist Church.



Eve 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

Eve Circle's College Care Package Project

In November Eve Circle is sending a note and surprise gift to our church members who are currently attending college. This is a fun way to keep in touch with our students and to let them know we are thinking of them. To nominate a student to receive a gift, please complete the form at BUMCLinks.com. Donations from our church family make this ministry possible. Eve Circle's funds and any money donated will go towards the purchase of gift cards to be sent to the students. Last year we reached 27 students! Judy McCrodden is leading this project and would love to talk to you about it. Contact the church office for her details.



SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

For children and youth.

At Brecksville United Methodist Church we are unabashedly authentic in our lifelong quest to grow with God and learn with one another, with age appropriate opportunities for all ages. Our early childhood education programs are designed to meet children where they are and to develop sticky faith that will give kids a foundation for lifelong growth with God. Caring teachers and helpers make learning fun, with plenty of opportunities to develop lasting friendships.



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.



Seedlings & Sprouts *After the Children's Moment of the 10:30 service*

Two wonderful ways for children to grow in faith and learn God's stories. SEEDLINGS is a gentle, "old-school" style class perfect for younger children and anyone who enjoys a quieter setting. Children will hear Bible stories, pray together, and enjoy simple, hands-on activities at an unhurried pace. Seedlings is for children of any age. SPROUTS is a lively, rotation-style class where we explore a Bible story for six weeks through different learning stations—science, cooking, storytelling, games, video, music, and crafts. This class is designed for older kids with more independence; children must be in 1st grade or older to join Sprouts. Whichever path you choose, your child will experience God's love, engage with scripture, and build lasting friendships!



Sunday at the Movies - 9:30 am, Room 401

Grab some popcorn and pull up a seat—it's time to see where God shows up on the big screen! In this all-ages kids' class, we'll watch popular, kid-friendly movies and look for the lessons hiding inside—lessons about kindness, courage, forgiveness, friendship, and more. We'll connect those moments to our faith, exploring what the Bible says and how we can live it out. Whether it's a hero's brave choice, a character's act of compassion, or a funny moment that reminds us of God's joy, we'll discover that faith lessons are all around us.



Third Grade & Confirmation Bible Sunday *Sunday September 14*

The gift of scripture is more than a book—it's an invitation to wonder, to grow, and to walk together in faith. Whether your child is just beginning to explore the Bible or already familiar with its stories, this moment marks a meaningful step in their journey—and a beautiful way for our whole church family to surround them with love and encouragement.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION FOR YOUTH

Youth Group *Weekly on Sundays from 5:30-7pm. Begins Sept. 14*

Faith, food and fun is on the agenda for students in grades 6 through 12 on Sundays during the school year. Each week we'll do our check-in with each other while noshing on pizza. Then we'll have a conversation about one person from the book "Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints" and do an activity/game. Parents will sign up to lead each week, and Jamie Schwendeman, Kim Petro, and Pastor Heidi will be around to lend support and make sure the kids know they're loved! 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 - youth@brecksvilleumc.com! Want to volunteer? Contact Pastor Heidi!

BUMC Support Squad

Are you in grades 6 - 12? We want to celebrate YOU and all the amazing things you're doing outside of church. Are you on the Robotics Team? Debate? March in the band? Play a sport? Dance? Crew on the Cuyahoga? Let us know! We want to come support you and cheer you on. Your church family loves you and are so excited to see all the ways you are growing! Email Jenny at education@brecksvilleumc.com to tell us what you are up to this year and attach a schedule if possible. And don't worry. We promise not to embarrass you! Let us know if you'd like to hear loud cheers, or if a quiet supporting presence is what you need!

The Confirmation Journey - *Begins September 14, 9:30 am Youth Room*

Confirmation is an opportunity for any student, grade 7 or above, to explore what it means to be United Methodist. Learn what it means to be a Christian, and more specifically, a United Methodist, by digging into scripture, church history, prayer, spiritual development, theology, mission, and the structural connections of the UMC. Learning takes place on Sunday mornings, with individual mentors, during worship, on retreat, and in other avenues through the two-year process, which asks "Do I want to follow Jesus and choose to be a United Methodist?" Confirmation is 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 closes September 7! Email youth@brecksvilleumc.com today!



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

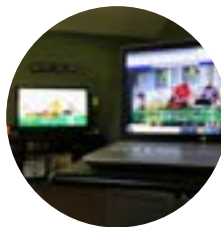
Worship on the Lawn: Through the month of September, we worship in God's cathedral under our canopy of trees with a service including hymns, an affirmation of faith, and communion each week.

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



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 (Seedlings & 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.

Communion

Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey. In The United Methodist Church, we observe an open table, which means all are welcome to participate, no matter your age or how long you have attended. The elements are gluten and alcohol free. Holy Communion is celebrated each week at the 8:30 service and on the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 service.

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!

HONEST WORSHIP: Special Worship Services this season



Curious Church: Wondering Our Way Forward 9.7 - 10.26

We live in a time when people are less likely to check 'Christian' on a survey, but more likely to ask, 'How do I live a meaningful life?' They may not trust religion, but they are yearning for God. And the church - when it's faithful - has the ability to meet that hunger with hope. What if, instead of fearing change, we became curious about what God is doing in this moment - in us, in our neighbors, and in the world? This fall, we get curious about where we've been, who we are, how we live, and where God is leading us. We recognize that the future of the church doesn't depend on having all the answers, but on trusting that God will lead us to the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet!



True & Chosen Name: A Service of Naming Sun, October 12 at 6pm

Before God named him Abraham, he was called Abram, and before God called her Sarah, she was known as Sarai. Jesus recognized gifts in his follower Simon that Simon himself could not see, and Jesus renamed him Peter, to signify the man Jesus knew he was. These are just a few examples of many stories of renaming found in the Bible. But this is not just history. For many today, particularly for our transgender siblings, God is still renaming us, and calling us to who we are meant to be. For some, our new names and identities come to us in a flash of revelation, like Saul, who became Paul. For others, God whispers our true names to us in our ear countless times from birth, until we finally listen. During this service, we will celebrate and affirm those who have heard their true names, and commission them to live the life God has known for them. Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones, and Rev. Dr. Joelle Henneman will join Pastor Heidi for this ecumenical service. All are welcome to attend and surround our siblings with the love of God. If you would like your name to be celebrated during the service, please reach out to Pastor Heidi.



All Saints Sunday November 2 at 10:30

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate, honor, and remember those saints in our own lives who have helped form our faith. During worship, we read aloud the names of the saints in our community who have passed away in the last year. We light a candle and toll the church bell for each person, praying that their memory will continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for us all.



What Do You Fear? November 30 - January 4

Christ did come—that's the promise of the season. God entered a frightened world to bring good news. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.



Advent Dinner Church December 3 at 7 pm

On the first Wednesday in Advent, we gather together at this special worship service to set our intention for this season of active waiting. The service is centered around a shared meal, and includes scripture, conversation, and prayer.



Service of Hopes & Fears *December 17 at 7 pm*

The hopes and fears of all the years is met in Thee tonight. This line from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" acknowledges that this time of year is filled with hope and fears, joy and sorrow. This candlelight service is a space to come together in our grief to find comfort in a season that is not always joy-filled.



Christmas Extravaganza & Christmas Cantata

A special Sunday filled with music and fun for the whole family. Join us at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall for family friendly activities and at 10:30 in the Sanctuary for this year's musical Christmas liturgy.



Christmas Eve Services *10:30 am, 3 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm*

In a world where good news never feels loud enough to drown out fear, let us shout with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!" Each service celebrates the same message in a different way. Our 10:30 am service welcomes the day with carols and a skit by our kids, our 3 service celebrates with carols played on the organ, our 5 service highlights a telling of the Christmas story by our kids, and our 8 service rejoices with a string quintet and our choir.



Home Gathering

AT CHURCH - OCTOBER 1 AT 7 PM

- 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 do you think of BUMC?" what would they say?
- Where do you sense God moving?

These are the questions Pastor Heidi and our Leadership Board are wondering about ... and hoping you can answer! We have a fantastic Vision Frame-- our mission, values, strategy, and measures. But we need a clearer picture of how God is leading us to use our resources to create safe spaces to grow with God and one another -- create after school opportunities for middle schoolers? Rent spaces to those in the business of caring for our body, mind, and soul (counseling, massage therapy, etc.)? Begin a program to help seniors stave off dementia? Something completely different?

Come to a Home Gathering on Wednesday, 10/1 at 7 pm to discuss these questions and hear from others. Unable to join that day? Email heidi@brecksvilleumc.com to share your answers!

GROWING YOUR GIFTS THROUGH SERVICE

Where will you use your gifts in the service of God?
Here are a few opportunities through Brecksville UMC!



*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.*



Acolytes

Kids 3rd 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. Join a training September 21 or 28 after the 10:30 service, or schedule with Jenny!



Alternative Revenue Team

The costs for ministry and our church income don't always match up. This team dreams up ways to close the budget gap to help make God sized dreams for our church possible. The pumpkin patch, flea and cookbook are examples.



Audio & Visual Technology

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!



Bike Ministry - Getting 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. This ministry is in transition and we need willing volunteers to help it continue!



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 (depending on how many closers we have!)



Church Property Care Team

Ministry is messy and our church building is well-used! This team is tasked with looking ahead and planning the projects that keep our building looking fantastic, allowing our Facility Managers focus on the everyday maintenance and up keep.



Communion Stewards

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.

GROWING WITH OTHERS THROUGH DETERMINED SERVICE



Congregational Care Team

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



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.)



Deeds of Mercy

We maintain a fund to assist people in our community who have fallen on hard times, because sometimes \$25 for groceries makes a world of difference. Support this ministry with your monetary donations and prayers.



Finance Teams

We are honored when people give their financial gifts to BUMC. The Stewardship Team, Budget Planning Team, and Audit Team help keep us accountable to using each gift in a way that helps us live into our mission and glorify God!



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!



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.



Gophers!

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



Grounds Maintenance Team

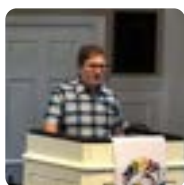
Adopt-A-Bed, Mowing Teams, Yard Clean up days and more. Wonderful folks volunteer their time to care for our church grounds, creating safe and welcoming space for worship, reflection, and community building on the Square.

Sign up: BUMCLinks.com ● Connect: Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com ● Call: 440-526-8938



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build - Saturday, September 20

Houses of Faith from all over Northeast Ohio are coming together to finance and build 2 more new homes for families in the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood of Cleveland. This is our second work day in 2025!



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.



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.



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.



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 & funerals.



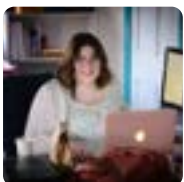
Nehemiah Mission - Bread on Bridge

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.



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.



Online Host

Every Sunday, people join us in worship from all over the United States – and the world! You can help these people know that they are part of our community by engaging with them as an online host. It's a real blessing!



Pearl Road Dinners - January 26 and March 22, 2026

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

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GROWING WITH OTHERS THROUGH DETERMINED SERVICE



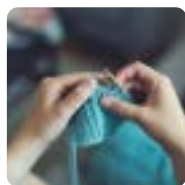
Pull Together for the House!

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!



Pumpkin Patch - *September 29 to October 31 from 11 am - 7 pm*

We're inviting the community to the church yard for fall fun. Pumpkin sales will help us close our budget gap. Photo opportunities, simple games and weekend activities will help make our little pumpkin patch in the center of town a joyful gathering for all! Sign up to serve a shift at BUMCLinks.com



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!



Trials for Hope - *September 13 and November 8*

One 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.



Trick or Trot - *Saturday, October 25, 8:30 am - Blossom Hill*

This Brecksville Kiwanis sponsored 5K Race/1 Mile Family Fun Walk is celebrating its 12th year in the community and benefits _____. Wear your costumes! Prizes awarded for both costumes and race time.



Welcome Team

Have you ever walked into a gathering and no one said "Hello! Good to see you?" That's a terrible feeling, isn't it? It should never happen at church. Join the Welcome Team and share that warm Sunday-morning-feeling with all!



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!

Sign up: BUMCLinks.com ● Connect: [Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com](mailto>Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com) ● Call: 440-526-8938



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 everyday 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.



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.



Transgender Truth Sept. 25, Brecksville Community Center

Our transgender friends need our understanding. Bring your open mind and heart to this BBH Pride workshop, a non-judgemental space to learn from physicians, mental health professionals, and members of the transgender community. Better understand the issues, challenges and successes along the transition journey.



Veterans Sunday November 9 at 10:30

With prayers for peace and thanks for their sacrifice, we set aside time on this Sunday to honor those who served with refreshments and a special slideshow of veterans within the congregation. Contact the office to include your name.



Care & Prayer Mail

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!



Green Team

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Including all of God's creatures and plants in our daily choices is the ultimate form of courageous inclusion! Creation care is essential to our calling as we practice the Christian faith. Help us live into this call by joining, or leading, our new Green Team!

JOYFUL GATHERING

opportunities for connection



Fall Kick Off- (*The Second Sunday of September*) September 7 at 11:30

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! Bring your friends and family!



Sing for Unity - *Sunday, September 21 at 2 pm*

On the United Nations' World Day of Peace, we join other voices around the world - at 2 pm local time - to encircle the Earth with songs of peace. Come to the Sanctuary and sing for peace!



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.



Hanging of the Greens *Sunday, November 23*

Stay after worship services to help prepare the church building for the season of Advent, with greens and trees and lights and candles. This all ages event helps prepare our hearts for the season!



Christmas Caroling *Is this something we want to do again this year?*

We have the songbooks, the voices, and the know how - but do we have a point person to lead the way? If you are curious about learning how you can help, email music@Brecksvilleumc.com



Christmas Tacos *Christmas Eve at 6 pm*

A casual and joyful gathering in Fellowship Hall. You can help by volunteering to set up, clean up or serve; bringing a dessert to share; or offering a donation to offset the costs.

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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, The Good Word. Subscribe for a mailed or emailed version (or both) or pick up a copy at church. melanie@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!

