



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINCE 1814

Spiritual TRAIL GUIDE SPRING/SUMMER 2026

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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

Dear Friends,

When I look through this edition of our Spiritual Trail Guide, I'm struck by the sheer vibrancy of our community. From the Bike Ministry to Small Groups, and from joyful worship to quiet moments of prayer, it's truly amazing what God is doing through you.

And, we know that the world around us is changing. Health experts tell us we are living through a loneliness epidemic. Experts tell us that social isolation is as damaging to our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. At Brecksville United Methodist Church, we believe God is calling us to be a remedy for that isolation. Our "Big Dream" is simple yet profound:

To saturate our community with connection and belonging—on the Square and everywhere.

To make this dream a reality, we are intentionally shifting our focus from being "program-driven" to being "people-driven." We don't just want to offer events; we want to be the relational heart of Brecksville, ensuring that no one has to navigate life's journey alone.

As you flip through these pages, I invite you to view these opportunities not just as things to do, but as pathways to connection. Whether you are discovering your unique Spiritual Gifts, joining the Listening Post to share your heart, or serving on a Ministry Team, you are helping to build a more hospitable home and community for everyone.

We are dreaming big—investing in new staff roles like an AV Director, Care Pastor, and a Children & Family Ministries Director, and preparing to make immediate building repairs, as well as discerning how to align our physical space with our relational mission in the long-term. But this vision requires all of us.

I invite you to join me in the 6:50 Prayer—setting an alarm for 6:50 (AM or PM) to pray for our church. Together, let's see what God can do when we move forward with courage, inclusion, and a big dream for our future.

Take care,

Rev. Heidi Welch, Senior Pastor

650 PRAYER

God of abundance, saturate our community with connection and belonging. Where there is isolation, make me present. Where there is loneliness, make us family. Show me my part in cultivating relationships so that others will know of Your boundless love. Open my heart and mind to the incredible things I haven't even imagined yet. Amen.

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

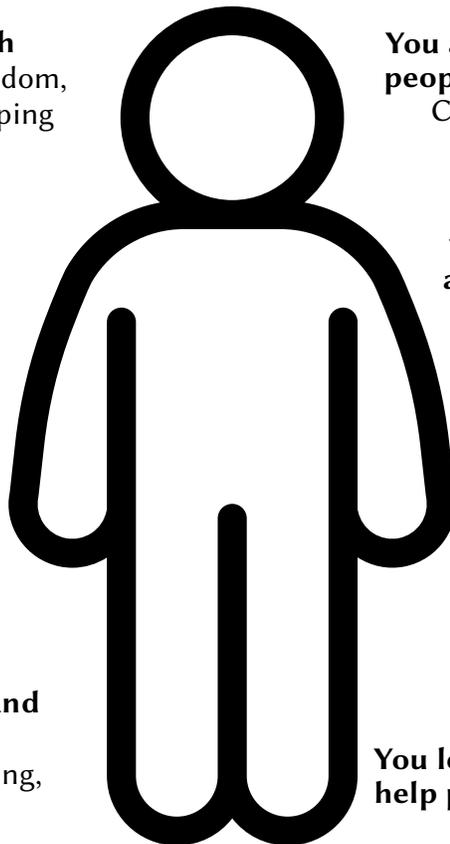
You aren't afraid to show people your emotions and love people just as they are. Nurturing Gifts include: Wisdom, Shepherding, Exhortation, Helping, Discernment, Faith, Compassion

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 parties
- Help with VBS registration and pre-work
- Join a counting team on Sunday mornings

APOSTLESHIP

- Travel with a Volunteers in Mission Team
- Volunteer with youth (or elders) and see how your faith can translate to Gen Z (or Boomers)
- Consider starting a new ministry at BUMC. What moves your heart?

COMPASSION

- Serve on the Funeral Reception Team
- Volunteer at the Kid's Book Bank
- Help out with the Frozen Food Ministry
- Develop a Disabilities Ministry Team
- Assist at the bi-monthly Chippewa Craft Days

DISCERNMENT

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

EVANGELISM

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

EXHORTATION

- Send cards to our Care and Prayer mail recipients
- Lead a Sunday morning class
- Join the Congregational Care Team

FAITH

- Write letters of encouragement to folks on our Care and Prayer list
- Subscribe to the Prayer Chain and pray for those who need extra love
- Put faith into action on the Green Team

GIVING

- Serve on the Stewardship Team, Capital Campaign Work Group or the Alternative Revenue Team
- Join the Missions & Community Engagement Team
- Serve in the Pumpkin Patch

HEALING

- Join the Congregational Care Team
- Check out the Courageous Inclusion events throughout the year
- Send cards to our Care and Prayer mail recipients

HELPING

- Serve on the Worship Tech Team
- Join the Meal Train or Gopher lists
- Serve as Communion Steward or join the Welcome Team
- Join the Joyful Gathering Team and help create opportunities for fellowship
- Become a church closer... esp if you are a night owl!

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES

- Join the Worship Band
- Talk with Pastor Heidi about becoming a liturgist
- Consider teaching in Sprouts or Seedlings

KNOWLEDGE

- Teach an adult or kids Sunday morning class
- Lead a Mind, Body, Spirit Wellness Course
- Join the Bike Ministry and share your knowledge with others

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

- Serve on the Inclusion Task Force
- Join the Green Team and help others see how caring for creation is an act of faith
- Join the Imaginative Prayer group on Monday mornings

SERVANTHOOD

- Help spruce the church yard as part of the Grounds Maintenance Team
- Join the SewForGood Team- you don't need to know how to sew! Or try your hand with the Stitch in Time knitters
- Serve on a regular Sunday morning rotation for morning coffee, welcome team, or communion.
- Join GCC (Greater Cleveland Congregations)
- Ask about what you can assist with at Nehemiah

SHEPHERDING

- Become a Confirmation mentor
- Teach during Sprouts
- Help out in the Wiggle Room

TEACHING

- Talk with Jenny about teaching an adult class
- Be a station leader at VBS
- Can you fix a bike? Teach others in our Bike Ministry

WISDOM

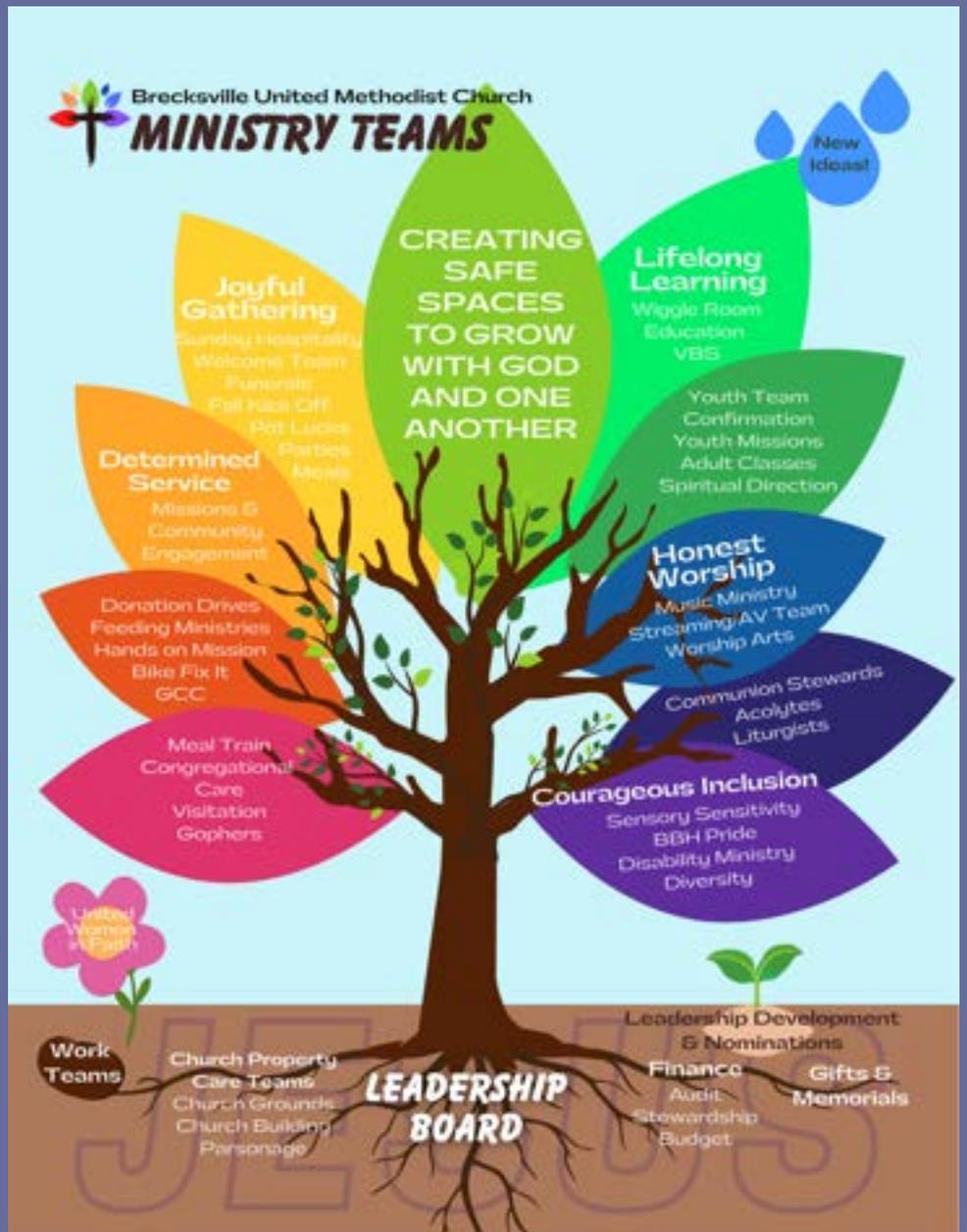
- Volunteer with youth
- Join the Sunday morning Podcast discussion
- Check out BUMC's online Bookshop

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.

Read about the Leadership Board's Guiding Principles and more at BrecksvilleUMC.com/2026LeadershipBoard



2026 Leadership Board

Brian Bendlak, Brenda Calovini, Matt Gabor, Michael Houff, Kathy Louttit, Alan Scheufler, Tracy Scott, Maria Shurik, Deb Watkins, and Rev. Heidi Welch.



PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELLNESS

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

Small 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. Registration is perpetually open, and a new six week host training begins April 26. Contact Shannon Kantorowski to learn more and sign up!



April Aeirie Amble: A Sojourn for All

Saturday, April 11 | Meet at Brecksville Railway Station

Join the Green Team for a morning of movement, music, and mindful connection with creation. This all-abilities sojourn along the Towpath is a perfect outing for everyone—including those using wheelchairs or who prefer a gentler pace.

- The Hike: We'll depart from the Brecksville Railway Station, walking the accessible path toward the eagle nests.
- Reflections: Along the way, we'll hear stories and insights on creation, with a special time of prayer and song by the river (stay tuned for a musical guest!)
- The "Brown Bag" Social: We'll conclude at the Plateau Picnic Area Pavilion for a BYO-lunch. Whether you hiked the full trail or are just joining us for the meal, there's a seat for you at the table! RSVP at BUMCLinks.com for more details.



Sound Bath Experience

A meditative evening of deep listening and rest. Participants are invited to relax as resonant tones and gentle vibrations create space for calm, reflection, and restoration. June Date TBD



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.

As we move into a season of new growth, we invite you to find new rhythms for your spirit.



Celtic Spirituality – A 6 Week Exploration

Sundays at 9:30/In the Chapel/Begins April 12

The Celtic Christian tradition offers a deeply rooted spirituality shaped by nature, poetry, prayer, and attentiveness to the sacred in everyday life. In this six-week class we will explore themes such as: The Celtic approach to prayer and meditation; Ancient poems, prayers, and stories of the early saints; The rhythms of the sacred year; The spiritual symbolism found in the Grail quest traditions. Participants will encounter beautiful prayers and blessings that can be woven into daily life and discover how Celtic wisdom invites us to see the world as alive with the presence of God. All are welcome!



Monday Book Study Monday evenings at 7 pm in the Parlor

Fully Alive by Elizabeth Oldfield. Holy Hell by Derek Kubitius, Better Ways to Read the Bible by Zach Lambert. What will our next book be? Check back to find out which though provoking title will guide our discussions next!



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.



Imaginative Prayer 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. This gentle practice helps scripture come alive and invites us into a more personal, transformative encounter with God. *On the first Monday of the month, we meet at Chippewa Place!



Sign up: BUMCLinks.com

Connect: [Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com](mailto>Hello@Brecksvilleumc.com)

Call: 440-526-8938



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.

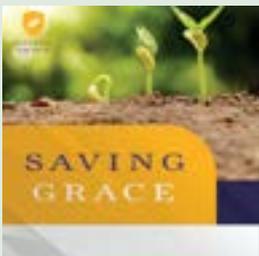
Basic Beliefs -

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 -

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



SAVING GRACE

Stressed about Finances? You are not alone!

Money is one of the biggest stressors we face, but it doesn't have to stay that way. Join Alan Scheufler for Saving Grace, a 6-week series starting April 21 designed to help you breathe easier. Whether you're looking to build a spending plan or finally tackle debt, you'll gain practical, faith-based strategies to reclaim your financial peace.

Saving Grace is designed for every generation—from those just starting out to those navigating retirement. This is a safe, non-judgmental space to learn and grow. Whether you're in a financial crisis or just want to be a better steward of your resources, you are welcome here.

The class is free, but registration is required!

If Tuesdays don't work for you, let us know in the sign-up form so we can plan for the future!

- When: Tuesdays, starting April 21
- Focus: Your well-being and financial freedom.
- Register: BUMCLinks.com, call 440-526-8938, or text 888-556-1171.
- Childcare available upon request!



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

The United Women in Faith meet in the Parlor on the first Thursday of each month. Come for refreshments and conversation at 9:30 and stay for a presentation at 10. A business meeting follows the presentation. Watch for details in the Bulletin and newsletters. Subscribe to our mailing list! UWF@BrecksvilleUMC.com

- April 2 - From Beaver Marsh to Boardwalk, a Bobel talk
- May 7 - Richard Wiskins on Euclid Beach History
- June 4 - Field Trip - All Aboard the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad!



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.

Radicle Methodism: Early Roots

April 9 and May 7

The class will continue its exploration of the origins of Methodism, looking at the early movement, its social impact, and the spiritual vision that shaped its beginnings. Sessions in April and May will focus particularly on how today we are being called back to our roots.



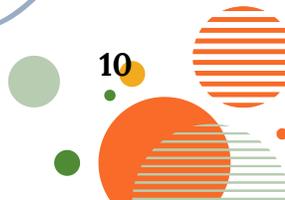
Eve Circle

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

This service-oriented group of women meets fall through spring 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

May Donation Drive for Womankind

Since 1975, Womankind has been walking with women along the journey of pregnancy and beyond by providing free prenatal care, personal support, and social services in a caring and non-judgmental environment. Eve Circle will support this work with a May Donation Drive for pregnant and parenting mothers. Stay tuned for details!





Spiritual Exploration for Children

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 *Sunday mornings from 8:30 am to Noon*

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.



Do Something Sunday *Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Grades 1 - 6.*

A wonderful way for children to see how God’s love can be shared through acts of service in all corners of our community and experience faith in action, living into our Methodist roots of service and love for neighbor. Can you help inspire the next projects? If you’re involved in service project and think kids could join in, please reach out to Jenny@BrecksvilleUMC.com

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. Whichever path you choose, your child will experience God’s love, engage with scripture, and build lasting friendships!



SEEDLINGS is a gentle, “old-school” style class perfect for younger children and anyone who enjoys a quieter setting. Children hear Bible stories, pray together, and enjoy simple, hands-on activities at an unhurried pace - discovering God’s love in ways that are hands-on, heart-opening, and full of fun!



SPROUTS is a lively, rotation-style class designed for older kids with more independence; children must be in 1st grade or older to join Sprouts. We explore one Bible story every five or six weeks, digging deeper through science experiments, cooking, storytelling, videos, games, and art—and exploring fun, hands-on ways to bring that story to life!



SUMMER SPROUTS & SEEDLINGS begins May 24. We’ll use our eyes, ears, and hearts to notice the beauty and wonder all around us—right on the church grounds. From blooming flowers and buzzing bees to birdsong and rustling leaves, we’ll take time to slow down, look closely, and listen deeply. A walking field trip or two are in the works. On bad weather days, we meet on the 4th floor.

The Confirmation Journey - Begins in the fall

Confirmation is an opportunity for any student, grade 7 or above, to explore what it means to be United Methodist. Students 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. This 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? Reach out to Jenny Gee, Dir. of Education: Jenny@BrecksvilleUMC.com



Confirmation Sunday – May 17 (10:30 Service)

We will celebrate our confirmands as they affirm their faith and take this important step in their spiritual journey. During the service we will also honor members of our congregation who have been part of the church community for 50 years or more.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

We will celebrate and honor graduates in our church family during worship on Sunday, June 7. If you or someone you love is graduating this year—high school, college, or a certification program—please let us know so we can include them in the celebration.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION FOR YOUTH

Youth Group Weekly on Sundays from 5:30-7pm.

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 share a devotion and do an activity/game. While the search for a Youth Director continues, parents sign up to lead each week, and Jamie Schwendeman, Kim Petro, and Pastor Heidi are 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 as weather permits. Sign up for the weekly youth news for updates and details - youth@brecksvilleumc.com! Want to volunteer? Contact Pastor Heidi or visit BUMCLinks.com!



STAY AND PLAY

FOR KIDS &
PARENTS OF
ALL AGES

SUNDAYS: APRIL 12 & JUNE 14 AT 11:30

CONNECTION, COFFEE & LAUGHTER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

A relaxed morning for young children and their caregivers to gather, play, and connect. We'll celebrate the season with simple seasonally-themed activities, toys, and time for parents and kids to build friendships. A great opportunity for families to get to know one another in a welcoming, low-key environment.

WHY COME?

- Give your kids space to explore, create, and be themselves.
- Connect with other parents who understand what parenting today really feels like.
- Take a little breath for yourself in the middle of a busy day.

Stop by for a few minutes or stay as long as you like—let's enjoy some lighthearted family fun together!

JENNY@BRECKSVILLEUMC.COM



A SPACE
FOR
PARENTS,
TOO!

Vacation Bible School Registration Opens April 1!

July 6–10 from 9:30 am–12:30 pm at Blossom Hill Pavilion

Get ready for the best week of summer! This year's VBS will explore Snowball Mountain Challenge, a winter-themed adventure where children will discover that the strength they need for life's challenges comes from God. Through Bible stories filled with courage and hope, kids will learn the promise of Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through God who strengthens me."

VBS is open to children age 3 (fully potty trained) through those entering 6th grade. Registration opens April 1 and will remain open until we reach capacity. Join us for a week of music, storytelling, games, crafts, and plenty of fun! Don't miss it! Learn more and register at BUMCLinks.com.





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 returns Sunday, May 24. Come experience worship in God's Cathedral, under a canopy of trees on the church's front lawn. Come as you are - camp chairs and picnic blankets, strollers and leashed pets welcome. In the fall, we move indoors for our Contemplative Worship Service, a meditative worship based on ancient Christian practices.



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: Worship Services this season



Maundy Thursday - April 2 at 7 pm

During his final hours, Jesus gathers his disciples to share one last meal. In the Gospel of John, something surprising happens: Jesus wraps a towel around his waist, pours water into a basin, and begins washing the disciples' feet. The good news is - even Judas gets his feet washed.



Good Friday - April 3 at 7 pm

In this Tenebrae Service, the deepening darkness mirrors the darkness that came over the world at the crucifixion. As the lights gradually fade, we witness a different kind of power-- the quiet, unyielding power of nonviolent love.



Easter Sunday - April 5

- Sunrise Service at 7 am - we greet the dawn in the Chapel.
- Traditional Service at 9 am - with Easter brass, choir and organ.
- Easter Service at 11 am - with worship band.



Sing for Unity - Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 am

Join us the Sunday after Easter for a special, stand-alone worship service: "Sing for Unity." Following the powerful spirit of our worldwide event last fall, this service is built entirely around music that connects us all.

Whether you love to sing or simply love to listen, come experience a morning of stirring anthems, choir performances, and special solos. Hear the story behind some beloved songs like "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "What a Wonderful World." Don't miss this beautiful opportunity to lift our spirits and celebrate our shared community through song!



Creation Care Sunday April 19

"A tree gives glory to God by being a tree." — THOMAS MERTON

Inspired by the Canopy of Creation, this service is an invitation to look up, breathe deep, and reconnect with the Earth we are called to protect. Come explore the sacred role that trees play in our lives and our faith. From the ancient cedars of scripture to the maples in our own backyards, trees are silent witnesses to God's faithfulness.



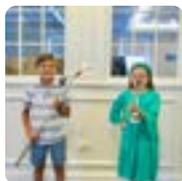
Our Money Story April 26 - May 17

We all have a money story. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame. Or a story that the church is dying and no longer relevant. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative? This series invites us to discover and tell our money stories in light of God's money story of liberation and justice and encourages us to transform into more full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

GROWING YOUR GIFTS THROUGH SERVICE



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



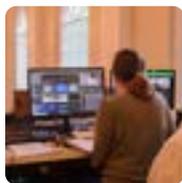
Acolytes

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. Is your child ready to be part of worship in this way? Reach out to 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. On Bike Fix It Days, all are invited to gather on Saturday mornings from 9 - 12: April 18, May 16, June 13...



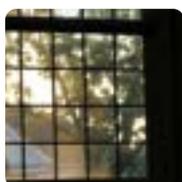
Chippewa Craft Days

Spending time in community with our neighbors at Horizon Chippewa Place, a senior living apartment building, is one way we share God's love. In 2026, we want to expand from 4 times to six times per year. Craft ideas are welcome!



Church Closers

Our church is busy, with evening meetings six days a week. Closers commit to securing 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 upkeep.



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. Reach out to Pastor Heidi to help.



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 and the Cleveland Food Network, 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!



Greater Cleveland Congregations

Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) is a nonpartisan, multi-racial, multi-faith group of people working together to build power for social justice. GCC unites people from across Cuyahoga County to tackle issues and take actions that strengthen our communities. Learn more at BUMCLinks.com



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.



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Our church is a founding partner of this initiative which brings together communities of faith to help build a home with a partner family each year, creating stability for a family and health and vitality for a CLE community. Be a part of it!



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.



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. Reach out to Pastor Heidi to learn more.



Kids' Book Bank - Second Saturday, odd months (Jan, March, etc.)

The mission of the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank is to foster literacy and a love of reading by distributing free books to children. The Aubles will lead a team downtown caravanning from the church from 9 am - 12 pm. Ages 13+. Sign up to serve at BUMCLinks.com



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 (new location!) - January 26 and March 22, 2026

We partner with Ridge Road UCC to serve dinner at The Wholeness Project (3389 Fulton Ave) while Pearl Road undergoes significant repairs. We need 8 - 9 volunteers to help prepare and serve the meal. Details at BUMCLinks.com.



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!



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!



Sleeping Mat Ministry

We turn disposable plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats providing a protective barrier between those who live outdoors and the cold hard ground. Help is always needed - folding & cutting bags, making "plarn" and weaving.



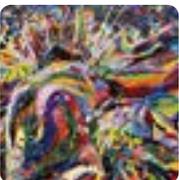
Welcome Team

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!



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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!



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.



Reconciling Anniversary May 11, 2011

We want to shout it from the rooftops - God loves YOU just as you are! In May 2011, our church set our intention to create a welcoming space for all of God's children. We live that out every day, but Pride Month is a unique opportunity to reach out into the community. There are many ways to be part of it. Reach out to Pastor Heidi or the office to learn more.



Pride in the CLE Saturday, June 6

Sometimes we need to shout about God's Love. Help tell others that God's love is for everyone by marching with other United Methodists in the Pride in the CLE Parade in downtown Cleveland on Saturday, June 6. We'll carpool from the Brecksville UMC parking lot or meet up downtown. RSVP at BUMCLinks.com for details!



BBH Pride Fest Saturday, June 27

We are called to go out into community and get to know our neighbors. What could be more fun than a positive festival with an exciting lineup of live music, food vendors, arts & crafts, games, LGBTQ+ resources and fun entertainment? It's the 4th annual Pride Fest - another opportunity to share God's love with our neighbors. Sign up at BUMCLinks.com for details.



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!

JOYFUL GATHERING opportunities for connection



Listening Post - Leadership Board Town Hall, April 26

Since our Big Dream Town Hall, we have spent a month praying and reflecting on how we can truly saturate our community with connection and belonging—on the Square and everywhere. Now, it's time to gather and share what we've heard.

Join the Leadership Board for this interactive Listening Post. We will move into small group breakouts to process our "Big Dreams" together in a relaxed setting and listen for where the Spirit is leading our congregation next.

- Sunday, April 26 at 11:45 am in Fellowship Hall
- Refreshments will be served, and supervised activities will be available for children, so the whole family can participate!



Dawnbreakers Breakfast Group - Wednesday Mornings at 7 am

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.



Brecksville Home Days - June 19 - 21, 2026

As the city gathers on the Square for Home Days, our church is bringing back a fan favorite: The Fishing Booth. It's a simple way to connect with our neighbors. Kids drop a line over the "waves" and reel in a surprise! Want to help? We need idea folks to dream up some prizes and others to work the booth. The Missions & Community Engagement Team needs you!



Brecksville Home Days Pie Baking Contest - Saturday, June 20

Who bakes the best pie in Brecksville? We'll find out during Home Days! Encourage your friends and family to enter this tasty contest, and to come sample the entries (for a donation to hunger ministry!) It's old fashioned fun on the Square. Details at BUMCLinks.com



Brecksville Flea - Saturday, August 8

Everyone wants to flee to the Flea! Whether you're a vendor or a shopper on the hunt for unique treasures, you'll find something to love at this rain or shine event. It's a fun, community building way to support the ministries of Brecksville UMC! Vendor registration is open now at BUMCLinks.com.

Save the dates!

- Fall Kick Off, September 13 at 11:30 - our annual celebration of the season.
- Pumpkin Patch, October - a gathering place for the whole community!

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



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Matt Botzman
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Scott Hastings
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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! ²²



Our Welcoming Statement

Open Doors. Welcoming all of God's children. Brecksville United Methodist Church is called to the ministry of reconciliation. We embrace diversity as a gift. We celebrate our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome the full inclusion of all people in the life and ministries of Brecksville United Methodist Church as we journey toward reconciliation through Christ.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

What action will you take after reading this Trail Guide? Will you sign up for a class? Attend a worship service? Lend a hand in a new way? Tell us about it and we will donate \$5 to the mission you choose below! Complete this form and return it to the office, or visit BUMCLinks.com to complete online.

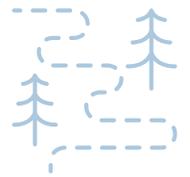
Your Name: _____

Email or Phone: _____

What's your next step? _____

Please donate \$5 to:

- BUMC Bike Ministry
 Nehemiah Mission



When we give to God through Brecksville UMC, we are opening our hearts as well as our wallets and saying, **“Yes, I want to be part of creating a safe space where people can come as their perfectly imperfect selves and be showered with God's unconditional love.”**



Find us @BrecksvilleUMC
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/@BrecksvilleUMC

____ Yes, I want to be part of Brecksville UMC's life changing work.
Enclosed is my/our tax deductible gift of \$_____.

Name/s (Please print): _____

Address: _____

Email/Cell Phone: _____

Thank you!

Return to:
Brecksville United Methodist Church, 65 Public Square
Brecksville OH 44141



Give through our secure website, onrealm.org/BrecksvilleMethodist/give/now by texting "GIVEBUMC" to 73256 or by scanning the QR Code.