

@BrecksvilleUMC

THE GOOD WORD

October 2026



FAMILY FUN FEST AT THE PATCH!

SATURDAY, OCT. 17
12 - 3 pm

Join us for a fun-filled fall afternoon at our Family Fun Fest, a special Pumpkin Patch party packed with games, treats, and music!
Saturday, Oct 17 | 12 - 3 pm

Patch Hours: Open all October, 11 - 7!

- Fun & games like pumpkin bowling, ring toss, pumpkin tic-tac-toe, and a corn sensory bin for the little ones!
- Temporary tattoos, story time, and a Candy Corn Guessing Jar (test your luck to win a prize).
- Capture your fall memories. Lots of opportunities for fall photos.
- **Donut NV Truck:** Grab some fresh, hot mini donuts while you play!
- **Live Music:** Local musicians Dylan (violin) and Andy Trautman (guitar) performing a lively mix of acoustic fiddling and classic Americana music.

Tell your friends, bring the kids, and pick out your favorite pumpkin while you're here. We can't wait to see you in the patch!



Our Vision Team: Eric Louttit, Alan Scheufler, Brian Pickering, Carolyn Jatsek, Jeff Hastings, Ric Lesinski and Terry Close.

October 4th we officially kick-off our "Imagine" vision campaign to fund our church's vision: saturating our community with connection and belonging... on the Square and everywhere.

For a pastor, leading a vision campaign is kind of like adding a second job: figuring out how to communicate with everyone ("Did we tell people this part yet?" "What's the best way to help people to see the big picture without overwhelming them?"), interviewing architecture & engineering firms, understanding the technicalities of the construction world with building codes and safety codes, praying about what we should prioritize and wondering how we can be wise, faithful stewards of people's hard-earned money... the list goes on!

All I can say is that I am exceedingly grateful that I'm not doing this work alone! For the past six months, our Vision Campaign Team has been meeting every few weeks to discuss, pray, wonder, worry, and pray some more. Each person on our team brings their own sort of experience and expertise, and it's been such a gift to see how God is using each of them to bring our vision to life.

Eric Louttit, who serves as our Vision Campaign Team Chair, has been a member of BUMC for 20 years. He spent many of those years serving on our Finance Committee (and 4 years as Chair!), but more than that, he and his wife Kathy raised their girls in this church and he's seen first-hand how transformational an accepting and welcoming church can be.

Terry Close has been worshiping with us at BUMC for about three years, and brings experience from working on the capital campaign at her previous church. She brings a fresh perspective to the process, and feels it's important to repair and update our building so we can continue to serve as a welcoming space in our community.

Jeff Hastings has been part of BUMC for almost 40 years, and for the past 17 years has served as one of our Facility Managers. As a Facility Manager, he brings a wealth of knowledge about our building, and knows its challenges personally. As a member of BUMC, he has a deep love for our building and staff, and the way they work together to create safe spaces for people of all backgrounds.

Continues on next page...

Brecksville UMC

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We're Getting a New Roof!



...Continued from page one.

Carolyn Jatsek brings a unique perspective to the team, because she's been part of BUMC since she was born! Her insight into how the building has been used throughout the decades has been a valuable reminder that we haven't "always done things this way." Plus, she's served in many roles at the City of Brecksville, which gives her lots of practical wisdom to share!

Shannon Kantorowski wears her Finance manager hat while serving on this Team. She has insight from working at another church during their vision campaign, where they focused on both building and staffing needs. Although Shannon has only been with us for a little while, she has a deep love for the ways BUMC is healing institutional harm and sharing God's love on the margins.

Ric Lesinski has been part of BUMC for 16 years, and has worked for many years with boilers and energy engineering. He serves on our 8:30 Welcome Team just about every Sunday, which helps him get to know our church community and its needs. He believes the work to make this *building* as welcoming as we are as *a people* is very much needed!

Brian Pickering has been connected to BUMC for about 5 years. In his "real life," he is a Project Manager at Case Western Reserve University. Brian was asked to join the team after his wife admitted to me that he was covering his bulletin with drawings for how to make the building more welcoming! He's been an invaluable asset to the team as we prioritize projects, do feasibility studies, and gather cost estimates.

Alan Scheufler has been a member of BUMC for over 40 years, and has served on just about every committee! He brings many decades of experience as an attorney to our team, and truly cares for our church family. He believes deeply in our mission and vision, and is excited at the way this campaign can serve as a springboard to expand our ministry to our community and world.

Melanie Smith helps us to communicate everything about the Vision Campaign to our church community. Melanie has served on staff in various roles over the past 17 years, and more recently became a member of BUMC in 2022. She does a fantastic job taking our ideas and excitement and conveying them in ways that are impactful and easy to understand.

Contributions from sub-group members like **Craig Kotnik**, **Maureen Wise**, **Kristi Eberhardt**, and **Kayce Borders** have also been invaluable.

Knowing that our vision is all about building relationships, this fantastic team of individuals is diligently working with Leadership Board and me to discern how we can meet both our building and staffing needs. And while including the integration of new staff positions means this campaign is unlike anything we've done in the past, the need is apparent. As I begin to talk with individuals about our vision, it's encouraging to see how again and again, they affirm that this vision's emphasis on relationships and helping people to encounter a God that is much bigger and exceedingly more loving than they've encountered before, is the logical next step for our church.

We haven't even "officially" started our campaign, and the excitement that's building around it is palpable. I can't wait to share more with you about this next chapter in BUMC's story as the month goes on!

Chapel Conversations

Practicing the Way – Finding God in the Ordinary

What if the most ordinary moments of our day could become opportunities to encounter God?

This fall, we will explore how everyday rhythms—welcoming others, paying attention, resting, listening, expressing gratitude, offering forgiveness, and serving our neighbors—can become meaningful spiritual practices.

Each week will include Scripture, conversation, reflection, and a simple practice to try during the week ahead. Together, we'll consider how ordinary life can become sacred and how small, intentional habits can help us live with greater peace, compassion, and purpose.

Come with your questions, experiences, and curiosity as we practice the way together.

Let's Talk: Podcast Class

Looking for a different way to listen, wonder and discuss? Join us Sundays at 9:30 am in room 301 for our Podcast Class. Each week, we'll listen to a podcast episode during the week that connects in some way with the upcoming Sunday sermon. Then we'll gather on Sunday morning to talk about what we heard, share our reactions and questions, and explore how the conversation connects with our faith and our lives.

You don't need to be a podcast expert—or even a particularly enthusiastic podcast listener! Just listen during the week, come curious, and join the conversation. There's no lecture and no right answer. It's simply a chance to listen, wonder, question, and learn together before or after worship. ***Come for the podcast. Stay for the conversation. Leave with something new to think about.***

Imaginative Prayer

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Begin your week with a little space to slow down, breathe, and listen. Our Imaginative Prayer group offers a guided time of prayer and reflection, often entering into a Scripture story through our imagination. We wonder: *What might I see? What might I hear? Where am I in this story? What might God be inviting me to notice?*

We meet at Chippewa Place on the first Monday of each month and in the BUMC Chapel (on the second floor) on all other Mondays. No experience with contemplative prayer is needed. Come as you are and make a little room for wonder at the beginning of your week.



Fall Centering Sound Bath

October 23 at 7pm

As the days grow shorter and the pace of life begins to shift, autumn invites us to slow down, settle in, and make a little space for ourselves.

Join us for a Fall Centering Sound Bath—a peaceful evening of rest, reflection, and deep listening.

Through the soothing vibrations of singing bowls and other instruments, we'll create space to release some of the busyness we carry and reconnect with what is grounding and life-giving.

No experience with meditation or sound baths is needed. Simply come as you are, get comfortable, and allow yourself to be still for a while.

A suggested donation of \$25 is appreciated and helps make these gatherings possible.

Come breathe. Come listen. Come be centered as we welcome the beauty and invitation of a new season.

STAY AND PLAY

A CASUAL, DROP-IN GATHERING
AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

SUNDAY OCTOBER 18 AT 11:30 AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL ★

Sometimes the best part of Sunday is having a little extra time to simply stay and play! Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a relaxed time for parents to connect while children have time to play, visit, and enjoy being together. We'll provide the bagels, juice, and coffee—you just bring yourselves! There's no agenda or program. Just a little extra time together as a church family. Come stay awhile!

**FOR KIDS OF
ALL AGES & THEIR PARENTS**

★
**A SPACE
FOR
PARENTS.
TOO!**



Third Grade Bibles

Placing faith in their hands.

Happy Bible Sunday to our 3rd graders and new Confirmation students!

We're grateful for this meaningful tradition and the opportunity to place a Bible into the hands of each child as a companion for the years ahead.



Confirmation Bibles

Sprouts

Sunday mornings after the Children's Moment at the 10:30 service

Sprouts is back for children in 1st through 6th grade! We'll spend the year learning, wondering, creating, and growing together. Our year begins September 27 with the story of baby Moses. Sprouts uses a rotation-style approach, giving children about six weeks to explore one Bible story through art, science, cooking, storytelling, video, games, and more. By approaching the same story from many different directions, children have time to ask questions, discover something new, and connect the story to their own lives. We hope each story becomes one they know, understand, and carry with them.

Seedlings: A Gentle Way to Grow

Sunday mornings after the Children's Moment at the 10:30 service
Seedlings offers children ages 3 and up a slower-paced, quieter Sunday morning experience. It's a cozy place to wonder, listen, create, and learn together.

We spend two weeks with each Bible story or storybook lesson, giving children time to become familiar with the story without feeling rushed. Through storytelling, games, and crafts, children are invited to participate at their own pace.

Do Something Sunday: Faith in Action

Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. — meets in the Parlor

Do Something Sunday is a hands-on experience for children in 1st grade and up who are ready to roll up their sleeves and put faith into action.

Throughout the year, we'll take part in practical, joyful service projects that connect our faith with the needs of our neighbors and wider community. Projects might include packing food, creating cards and gifts, preparing items for people who need them, or helping with one of our church's mission ministries.

Last year, our children packed food bags, birthday cake kits, and hygiene kits; made cards for veterans; helped with the Giving Tree; and discovered that even small hands can make a big difference. We look forward to another year of learning by doing and serving with joy!



Putting Vision Into Action

Tracy Scott, Leadership Board

The parking lot was full, the sun was shining, and the smell of flavorful food was wafting from the kitchen! All of this had me smiling and I hadn't even walked through our church doors! I continued to smile when I saw so many faces ready to participate in our annual Fall Kick-Off and Potluck that occurred on September 13th. The atmosphere was truly joyful with music, games, bounce houses, caricature drawings, crafts, and delicious food.

John and I and joined Brecksville United Methodist Church when we relocated to the area twenty years ago. Since then, the church has been a central part of our family's lives. Over the years, we have built lasting friendships, created wonderful memories, and grown in our faith alongside this congregation.

My church involvement has included teaching Sunday School, volunteering with Vacation Bible School, serving on the Nominating Committee, the Joyful Gathering Committee, and currently I have the pleasure of serving on our Leadership Board.

BUMC has been a place where our two children, Lauren and Andrew, have found community, support and opportunities to serve, as well.

As a stay-at-home mom, former preschool teacher at Horizons, active member of the community, and passionate supporter of our youth programs, I believe I bring a different perspective to the Leadership Board.

Our 2026 Leadership Board - Kathy Louttit (chair), Brian Bendlak, Brenda Calovini, Matt Gabor, Michael Houff, Alan Scheufler, Tracy Scott, Maria Shurik, Deb Watkins, Rev. Heidi Welch.

Celebrating 17 Years of Faithful Service:

Honoring Jeff & Scott Hastings

For 17 incredible years, our church home has been blessed by the dedicated care of Jeff and Scott Hastings. As a father-son duo, they have poured their talents, hard work, and hearts into keeping our church building a warm, welcoming, and beautifully maintained space - through changing, and sometimes challenging, times.

Over their nearly two decades here, their teamwork turned facility maintenance into a true ministry of care. As long-time, cherished members of our church family, their daily presence and stewardship of our building have left a lasting mark on all who enter here. As Jeff steps into a well-earned retirement, Scott is also preparing to turn the page. It is a time of extra-special celebration for him, as he is getting married this very week! As he embarks on this exciting new chapter of married life and new beginnings, we hold him and his new bride, Jessica, in our prayers. We owe Jeff and Scott an immense debt of gratitude for 17 years of faithful service and care. Please join us in thanking them and showering them with blessings for everything that lies ahead.

LEADERSHIP BOARD & MORE



One thing I have quickly learned is that much of the Leadership Board's work focuses on the business, operational, and staffing matters that help sustain the church. These are areas where I have less practical experience and at times I have felt a little out of my element. At the same time, serving on the board has reinforced for me how important it is to have people from a variety of backgrounds represented in church leadership. A healthy church needs diverse perspectives to help ensure that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of our entire church family.

This experience has also given me a new appreciation for all that happens behind the scenes.

Most of my previous involvement at BUMC centered on helping educate our youth and growing in my own faith. Through the Leadership Board, I have gained a much deeper understanding of how maintaining our facilities, stewarding our finances, developing our staff, and expanding our programs all play an extremely vital role in supporting our mission.

Serving on the board has broadened my perspective and deepened my appreciation for both the challenges and opportunities facing our church. I am grateful for the dedicated people who work so hard to support BUMC's ministry and I am excited about the ways God can continue to use our congregation to make a difference in the lives of others and expand our impact in the community.



Heading Into the School Year

This summer, I had a few conversations with our senior high students that have been seriously sticking with me.

One student told me they'd love more adventures, more outings and chances to serve in the community. I love that! (And it's a perfect chance to shamelessly beg: RSVP's make all the difference in being able to sign up for most of these opportunities, so don't forget to let me know when you're interested in something!) In the very same conversation, that student asked whether our youth could have a worship experience of their own, with music, scripture, prayer, and a message shaped by and for young people.

Another senior high student was disappointed to miss one of our discussion nights. He and a friend from a different church tradition have been having big conversations about faith, and he told me they need a place to wrestle with hard questions, disagree respectfully, and figure out what they really believe.

These conversations genuinely thrill me. Our young people aren't asking us to make faith easier, or even looking just to hang out... they're looking for spaces with depth and challenge (as well as laughter and fun, of course!)

That is a holy request, and it fits beautifully with who we already are. We say we value honest worship and lifelong learning. We say BUMC is a safe space to grow with God and one another. Our youth are taking us at our word!

These conversations also remind me of what's come up in prayers and conversations about Small Groups (page 11) : the idea of intentional disruption.... The transformational effect of commitment and potentially unfamiliar situations that ask a bit of stretching from us.

In this culture of short-form media, chaotic schedules, and constant movement, many of us - including our youth- are feeling that little tug and curiosity toward depth. Slowing down, perhaps. Showing up to something that brings new parts of ourselves to the surface.

So this fall, we're going to experiment with a few new things:

The Senior High Discussion Nights are one such experiment that will continue on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7-9pm. Friends are welcome too, whatever their faith background.

We'll also explore Student Worship, structuring some Youth Group evenings a bit more like our Sunday morning services, where youth might help choose the music, read scripture, lead prayer, and share what they are learning and thinking about. We're a small group, so it will look simple at first, and that's okay. Some of the most meaningful worship happens in a small circle.

Service Opportunities chosen AT youth group, BY youth group (Rather than invitations from me that usually get crickets in reply.)

Not every experiment will be a home run, and that's part of the adventure. We'll keep asking our youth what is meaningful to them and keep growing together.

How you can help:

- Pray for our youth by name.
- Cheer them on by joining the Youth Hype Squad list.
- Share your story. Would you be willing to visit a discussion night and talk honestly about how your faith has grown, questions and all?
- Think back. If a youth leader or a late-night conversation once shaped your faith, I'd love to hear about it.

Our young people are ready for the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet. Let's go there with them.



Shannon Kantorowski
Youth Director
Shannon@BrecksvilleUMC.com

Questions or ideas? Reach out or find me on Sunday.
-Shannon Kantorowski, Director of Youth Ministry

TWO WAYS TO GROW



Since 2020, we've prayed for God to show us "the incredible things we haven't even imagined yet."

Our Vision Campaign is a bold, faithful step toward that answer.

The dream: *to saturate our community with connection and belonging... on the Square and everywhere.*

That means:

- A roof that keeps us dry
- Efficient boiler
- A safe, accessible elevator
- Staff and programs that help us welcome, connect, and serve

GENERAL OFFERING

Annual pledge

Funds our full operating budget: staff, worship, Youth Group, Seedlings & Sprouts, missions, utilities, and building upkeep once covered by the Planned Expense Fund.

VISION CAMPAIGN

3-year pledge

Giving **above and beyond** your regular offering, set aside for building improvements and ministry growth that carry BUMC into our next chapter.

Why two pledges? So a vision this big never comes at the expense of the ministries we already love. You've already shown us what's possible:

2026

First balanced budget since 2019

+30%

Growth in non-pledged giving

60%+

Of pledged giving received by mid-year

Every gift matters. Please prayerfully consider your commitment and return your card on October 25, Commitment Sunday. *Planning a future gift?* See information about legacy giving on the next page. *Questions?* Reach out to Shannon Kantorowski, Finance Manager at finance@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938

MY 36 MONTH COMMITMENT



Use this chart to estimate your total gift over the three-year campaign.

monthly	yearly	3 yr total gift
\$28	\$333	\$1,000
\$42	\$500	\$1,500
\$69	\$833	\$2,500
\$139	\$1,667	\$5,000
\$208	\$2,500	\$7,500
\$278	\$3,333	\$10,000
\$417	\$5,000	\$15,000
\$833	\$10,000	\$30,000
\$1,111	\$13,333	\$40,000
\$1,389	\$16,667	\$50,000
\$2,083	\$25,000	\$75,000

Your commitment helps Brecksville UMC plan for its future. It's a statement of intent, may be changed at any time, and is kept confidential. **Thank you!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My/our 2027 Annual
GENERAL OFFERING COMMITMENT

\$

My/our 36-month IMAGINE
VISION CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT

\$

Join in what God is doing at Brecksville UMC!

2027 General Offering: our operating budget and ministries for the coming year.

36-month Imagine Campaign: gifts above our budget for enhancements that create welcoming spaces for all.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, and assets are welcome; contact the office. *All gifts are tax deductible.*



Prefer to pledge online? Visit BUMCLinks.com!



Planting Seeds for Generations: A Guide to Legacy Giving

There's an old proverb that says a community grows strong when people plant trees whose shade they will never sit in. Every Sunday, we worship in a church that was built, repaired, and sustained by people who gave generously, knowing they would not see all the fruit. Legacy giving is our chance to do the same for those who come after us.

What is planned giving?

A planned (or estate) gift is a future gift you arrange today as part of your financial or estate plan. It lets you support BUMC beyond your lifetime, and often uses non-cash assets rather than cash. It is a final act of stewardship that says, "What God has given me will continue God's work."

As our Vision Campaign begins, legacy gifts help the church plan for long-term ministry, which is essential to everything the Vision is about. We don't want to show up with a big loud bang and then trail off. We want to keep saturating the community with connection and belonging, year after year, decade after decade.

Ways to leave a legacy

- **Bequests** (the most common): Include Brecksville UMC in your will or trust as a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or what remains after other gifts. You can update it anytime.
- **Beneficiary designations:** Name the church as a beneficiary of an IRA, 401(k), life insurance policy, or investment account (TOD/POD). This is usually a simple form from your provider, with no attorney required.
- **Appreciated assets:** Give stocks, mutual funds, or real estate. You generally avoid capital gains tax on the growth and may receive a deduction for the full fair market value.
- **Charitable gift annuities:** Make a gift and receive fixed income for life, with the remainder going to the church. It's generosity and income security in one.
- **Charitable remainder trusts:** Income is paid to you or your beneficiaries, and the remainder goes to the church. These are often a good fit for larger or more complex estates.

Good for your family, too.

Charitable gifts may reduce your current taxable income, and gifts of appreciated assets avoid capital gains tax. For larger estates, charitable gifts can lower the taxable value of the estate, so more goes to ministry and less goes to taxes, while your family is still provided for.

Retirement accounts deserve a special mention.

When heirs inherit an IRA or 401(k), they typically owe income tax on what they withdraw. The church does not. Leaving retirement funds to Brecksville UMC and other assets to your loved ones can mean more for everyone.

Getting started is easier than you think

1. Decide what you want your legacy to be.
2. Choose an asset or a portion of your estate.
3. Talk with your attorney or financial advisor.
4. Document your gift in your will, trust, or beneficiary form.
5. Let us know! (It's optional, but it helps us plan and gives us the chance to say thank you.)

Clearing up a few myths

- "Planned giving is only for the wealthy." Not true! A gift of any size, even a small percentage, makes a lasting difference.
- "It's complicated." Many options take nothing more than a single form.
- "I'll lose access to my money." Most planned gifts are fulfilled after your lifetime, so you keep full use of your assets now.

Beyond the practical benefits, a legacy gift offers peace of mind, models generosity for your children and grandchildren, and leaves a lasting testimony of your faith.

When naming the church in your plans, please use our legal name, Brecksville United Methodist Church, 65 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141, Tax ID [34-600-4043].

If you've already included BUMC in your plans, or would like to talk through your options confidentially, please reach out to me at finance@brecksvilleumc.com or 440-526-8938.

This article is for general information only and is not legal or tax advice. Please consult your own advisor about your situation.



BIKE FIX-IT DAY
SATURDAY 10.17.26
9 - NOON



Rolling with a Purpose: Rolling Hope into Cleveland in October

A bicycle means independence, a reliable ride to work, and pure childhood joy. Our Bicycle Ministry volunteers will tune up donated bikes to get them ready for individuals and families in need.

You can be part of it! Your generosity is directly impacting our neighbors across Greater Cleveland. Every restored bike represents a life touched.

We recently delivered 24 bikes for OhioGuidestone, others to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, 13 bikes to Resource Cleveland and 3 bikes to the Center for Families and Children.

Want to help keep hope rolling? We are always looking for bike donations, extra hands to clean and repair, and your prayers for the neighbors receiving these rides. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

Join The Mission & Community Engagement Team

Help Brecksville United Methodist Church live out our value of Determined Service: showing God's love for others by meeting the needs of the whole person. This team is tasked with continually discovering creative ways to care for our community, providing intergenerational service opportunities, and partnering with other organizations to meet basic needs. Serve on the team to help cast the vision, serve as a project lead to coordinate a project, or serve as a helper using the gifts God graced you with. The Missions & Community Engagement Team meets quarterly. **The next meeting is Sunday, 10/18 at 11:45 am.** Reach out to team lead, Marla Knight, for more details. Missions@BrecksvilleUMC.com



BUMC Staff and friends at the 2024 Costume Parade

Horizons Preschool Costume Parade

There is nothing quite like the sound of 40 joyful preschoolers parading in costume through the church! Join the staff and church family as we host our annual indoor Treat-or-Treat in Fellowship Hall. Whether you dress up in full costume or just bring a warm smile, your presence lets these little ones know they are loved by this community. Thursday October 29 from 9:30 – 10 am in Fellowship Hall. Bring candy (or non-candy treats) to hand out - or just come cheer the kids on. Come be a part of this simple, high-impact tradition. You'll be on your way with a full heart!

Food Rescue Squad

On Tuesday afternoons, our kitchen is buzzing with activity, as volunteers take surplus food, donated by local restaurants and grocery stores, and prepares it for delivery to those who are hungry. We pack and deliver meals to the unhoused, and we prepare food for delivery to other feeding ministries. Want to be part of it? Talk to Matt or Kathy Auble, or email Missions@BrecksvilleUMC.com

Honoring Those Who Served

On Sunday, November 8, we will host a special coffee hour reception for those who served in the armed forces. Would you like to help? Are you a veteran? Please reach out to Catherine Vastartis or email Hello@BrecksvilleUMC.com to connect.



The Circle of Care: Caring Is a Team Sport

The smile on her face was huge. After choosing to stop driving, getting to church on Sunday morning wasn't simple anymore. But that Sunday, someone offered a ride. When they stepped off the elevator together, both of them were beaming. Their happiness was contagious—a total day-changer for both passenger and driver.

That elevator ride reminded me of a simple truth: care is a two-way street. When we ask for a hand, we give someone else the opportunity to serve. Both asking and giving are essential to being the church.

The ways we care for one another are many, and no one should walk this road alone.

- **In the heavy seasons:** A son is caring for his mother while siblings live far away. The load is heavy, but his day feels lighter when a friend stops by on a random afternoon just to share an ice cream with Mom.
- **In the lonely seasons:** Building a new community after downsizing to an apartment can be hard. When a church friend drops by to host a craft hour or play a board game, making neighbors becomes easier and more fun.

Last Sunday, over 220 of us gathered for worship. Imagine the joy if we connected our everyday routines with one another—filling empty cars and brightening quiet afternoons.

Whether you are ready to offer a helping hand or in a season where you need to receive one, you are a vital part of this team:

- **Sunday Ride Share:** Connect with us to offer a ride or to let us know you'd like a lift to worship.
- **Community Visits:** Join our team hosting craft days at Chippewa Place, or let us know if you or a loved one at a local senior residence would enjoy a board game partner, a quick visit, or a card in the mail.

What small step will you take this week to join the circle of care? - *Submitted by Melanie Smith*

Whether you need a hand or want to lend one: We want to connect with you. Letting us know you need a ride or a visit helps our whole church live out its calling. Contact Norla Lamonte at Care@BrecksvilleUMC.com.



United
Women
in Faith

faith

action

sisterhood

Roots of Methodism

October 1 Refreshments at 9:30 a.m. | Program at 10
Where did Methodism come from—and what can its beginnings teach us about who we are today? Join us for a 90-minute exploration of the people, ideas, and movements that shaped the Methodist tradition. Together, we'll consider how those roots continue to influence the way we live out our faith today. Come curious and ready to discover a little more about where we came from and why it matters.

Asbury Bremeth Women's Circle: Creed

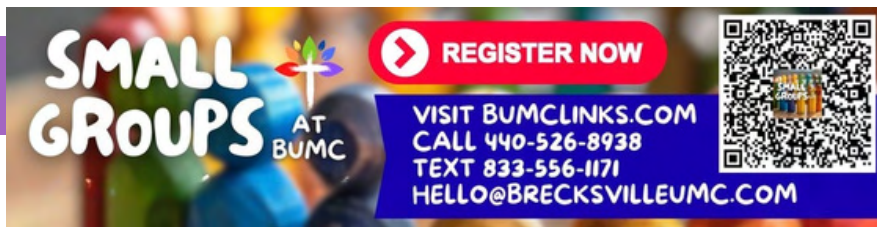
October 8 Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. | Program at 10
This year, the Asbury Bremeth Women's Circle will explore the Apostles' Creed—words many of us have said countless times, but may not have stopped to consider very deeply. Using Adam Hamilton's *Creed* as our guide, we'll combine video sessions with conversation and discussion. We'll take a closer look at the beliefs we share, the questions they raise, and how they might shape the way we live. In October we will discuss our belief in Jesus! Come ready to explore, question, and perhaps see some familiar words in a whole new way.

Eve Circle Serves

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm in the Parlor
Come help put together gift bags for our confirmation students. All are welcome! Also, any ideas for the gift bags are welcomed! What things might help our teens explore their faith and know they are loved? Lynn Hobzek- kezboh@aol.com

Deciding Our Path Forward

On November 5, 2026, our United Women in Faith (UWF) chapter will vote on our path forward. To continue as an official UWF chapter connected to the Northern Waters District, we urgently need members to step up and fill leadership roles for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Publicity. Without leaders, our group will transition into an inclusive BUMC church sub-team; under this new structure, favorite activities like field trips, speakers, bake sales, mission fundraising, and Eve Circle will continue with volunteers organizing individual events. Please consider which option serves you best, and come share your vote. Contact Kathy Sopka at kmineagain@yahoo.com with any questions. Read the entire statement at BrecksvilleUMC.com/United-Women-In-Faith



Stronger Together: The Holy Work of Small Groups

Anyone who has started a new workout routine knows the feeling: The first days aren't too bad. After a week, your muscles ache in places you forgot you had, and start to argue with yourself against quitting.

But something else is happening beneath the surface: Muscles grow stronger precisely because they are stretched past what's comfortable, then given time to rest and rebuild. Keep showing up, and one day you notice your body is changing, and you can do things you never could before.

The same is true for any discipline worth practicing. The musician's tedious scales become the freedom to play anything. The runner's painful miles become the joy of a long run. Discipline becomes the path to freedom. How free do you want to be? How much discipline do you have?

Faith works this way, too. That's what small groups are all about. Joining a small group is a kind of purposeful disruption. It means carving out time in our immensely full calendars. It means walking into a room where you may not know everyone, and sharing more vulnerably than you're used to. It can feel uncomfortable at first. That's okay. That's the stretch.

Because in small groups as in the gym, week by week, something beautiful happens. Strangers become friends. Friendly conversation becomes deep discussion. Someone prays for you by name when life gets heavy, and you realize you don't feel as alone. Small groups are a place of welcome, safety, and connection. And they are also a place of transformation, where the fruit of intentional commitment blossoms into true growth.

In a world that pulls us in a hundred directions, choosing a small group is a way to say, "My spirit and my relationships matter, and I'm not going to let life crowd that out."

Two new groups are starting this fall:

- ZERO LINE Men's Group with Dru Siley Wednesdays at 7 pm
- WILD LIFE with Emily Danford: Coming Soon! Sunday afternoons

Current groups are continuing strong and perpetually open to join:

- Wednesday Mornings, 10 am, led by Julie Evonna on Zoom
- Thursday Evenings, 7 pm, led by Becky Bendlak in the Youth Room
- Sunday Evenings, 5:30 pm, led by Tina Mihalek in 201

Whether you've been part of a group for years or are just now feeling the nudge, there's room for you! The first step might feel like a stretch. Take it anyway. You may be amazed at how strong you become, together.

Sign up at BUMCLinks.com. Questions? Contact Shannon in the church office at 440-526-8938.

You're In The Right Place

With our main parking lot sitting *behind* the church, most people enter through the lower level, make a U-turn, and try to figure out how to find their way up to the Sanctuary. Someone recently said, laughing, "We need a giant sign in the entry that says, '*You're in the right place!*'" It was said tongue-in-cheek, but the truth in it hits home.

Walking into a new church—or even returning after a long time away—can feel intimidating. When you enter a new building and aren't sure where to turn next, it's easy to wonder, "Am I doing this right?" A sign on the wall can be helpful, but a greeting from a person is so much better.

That is the heart of our Welcome Team Relay. When a volunteer is standing at the lower entrance, hosting near the elevator, or smiling at the top of the stairs, they embody the message: "Welcome! You're in the right place, and we're so glad you're here."

Creating this atmosphere isn't hard, but it does take a team—and it's a wonderfully rewarding way to connect with people on Sunday morning.

Want to be a sign of welcome for others? We'd love to have you on the team! Serving takes just 15–20 minutes once a month - or however often you can spare.

Next time you're walking up those stairs, take a look around and imagine it's your first time. If you'd like to help others know they're in the right place, talk to Melanie or Anthy at the welcome stand, sign-up at BUMCLinks.com, or scan this QR code!





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

Week of October 4

Robin Raybuck

It's her birthday!

2365 Barnsley Way

Broadview Hts., OH 44147-3674

Week of October 11

Jamie Schwendeman

Surrounding him with love and care this week.

1451 Tollis Pkwy Apt 345

Broadview Hts, OH 44147-1883

Week of October 18

Jane Petrie

It's her birthday this week!

6814 Rosemont Dr

Brecksville, OH 44141-2613

Week of October 25

Blanche Lambert

Undergoing cancer treatment

2334 Walter Rd

Westlake, OH 44145-4323

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

Email Prayer@brecksvilleumc.com



Care & Prayer Tip:

Stuck on what to write?

A simple "Thinking of you" or
"You're in my prayers" is always
enough. For more inspiration
and sample phrases for many
situations, visit

brecksvilleumc.com/care-prayer-mail/



BIRTHDAYS

2 Blakely Raybuck

2 Sasha McHenry

4 Cindy Hubert

4 Alex Vastartis

4 Mara McHenry

5 Brian McCrodden

5 Robin Raybuck

6 Lorelei Shankland

7 Herb Einheit

7 Kay AuWerter

8 Dave Smith

8 Savannah Jacob

8 Wren Smith

9 Mark Spencer

9 Michael Jaszczak

9 Maria Shurik

10 Lauren Chenney

10 Matthew Sendrey

10 Amelia Nehlsen

11 Jane Petrie

11 Nick Telischak

11 Evan Jatsek

11 Dawn Carter

12 Cindy King

12 Ray Carter

13 Ryan Rybak

14 Lawry Kardos

14 Randy Richards

15 Thuy Ai Nguyen

15 Josh Kwiatkowski

16 Cathy Walden

16 Marilyn DeMoor

16 Lucy Shijo

16 Emily Bertsch

17 Dion Adanich

18 Carly Kubek

18 Natalie Vastartis

20 Carolyn Jatsek

20 Andy Batcheller

20 Anna Bloch

20 Anthy Morgan-Imes

21 Mark Hubert

21 Eliza Botzman

23 Olivia Klipfell

24 Sara Kwiatkowski

24 Emily Shijo

24 Dominick Bianchi

25 Carol Herzing Dobos

26 Gretchen Mates

26 Chris Nguyen

26 Nate Rosenthal

26 Peggy Bowman

26 Gavin Pence

26 Henry Sleggs

28 Kim Meyer

28 Dean Rybak

29 Jason Bell

31 Ric Lesinski

31 Susan Hernandez

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



Brecksville UMC is a thriving community of faith
because of people like you! We thank God for each of
you every day, and pause in this space to say a public
thanks for just a few of you for the many ways you help
saturate our community with connection and belonging.

Nancy Wygonski was a first time helper with our Newsletter production team last month. We're thankful for everyone who helps Anthy get this printed publication to you, including Sue Ellenberger, Linda Crouch, Joan Bloch and Gretchen Mates! (Want to help? We meet the fourth Thursday of each month to fold, stuff, label and seal!) Dru Siley stepped forward to make the vision of a Men's Small Group a reality. Thank you making this opportunity for connection happen, Dru! Ina Ladich, Sharon Judson and Norla Lamonte have all signed up as drivers for our new Drive a Neighbor To Church Team. Our Fall Kick Off Team was so much fun, thanks to *so many helpers* - special shout out to Michael Gezze who created beautiful likenesses for many, our Joyful Gathering Team who organized the whole event so beautifully, and to whomever brought the green jello with meatballs dish. It sure got us talking! Jordan Welch helped us keep the beat as a drummer in the worship band for the first time. Lynn Hobzek is a superstar - she collects and mails our bread tags for wheelchairs, is the guiding light behind our annual Baby Shower for Womankind, and so much more. Don Krolikowski and his trusty camera help capture special church memories - and his son-in-law, Kevin Smith, took our 2026 Church Family Photo. There's so much more! THANK YOU ALL!

2026		SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30					

October

2026		NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 PUMPKIN PATCH Open daily 11 am to 7 pm Pumpkins and gourds of all shapes, sizes and many colors available for sale! Proceeds benefit the missions & ministry of Brecksville UMC.				1 9:30/10 UWF Presentation 6:30 Choir 7 Small Group 8:30 Band <i>Reports to Leadership Board due today!</i>	2 	3 
4 World Communion 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes&Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:45 Acolyte Training 11:45 Conf. Mentors 5:30 Youth Group 5:30 Small Group	5 10:30 Imaginative Prayer (@ Chippewa) 7 A Taste of What's Possible <i>Roof Replacement Begins!</i>	6 10 Worship Tm 10:30 Staff Mtg 2 Mission Food 2:30 Communion Svc at Chippewa Place	7 7 Breakfast 10 Zoom Grp 7 A Taste of What's Possible 7 Zero Line 7 Senior High Discussion	8 9:30 Asbury Bremeth 6:30 Choir 7 Small Group 7:30 Leadership Bd 8:30 Band	9	10 11 Green Team Mindfulness Walk
11 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes&Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Child Safety Team 12 Staff Picnic 5:30 Youth Group 5:30 Small Group	12 10:30 Imaginative Prayer 6:30 BBH Pride Parent Support Group	13 10 Worship Tm 10:30 Staff Mtg 2 Mission Food 7 A Taste of What's Possible	14 7 Breakfast 10 Zoom Sm Grp 7 Zero Line 7 Safety & Security Mtg	15 6:30 Choir 7 Small Group 8:30 Band	16	17  Bike Fix It Day 9 am - 12 pm  FALL FESTIVAL 12 - 3 pm
18 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes&Coffee 10:30 Worship 11:30 Stay & Play 5:30 Youth Group 5:30 Small Group	19 10:30 Imag. Prayer 7 Vision Team	20 10 Stitch'n'Time 10 Worship Tm 10:30 Staff Mtg 2 Mission Food 5-8 Sew4Good HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANTHY	21 7 Breakfast 10 Zoom Grp 7 Zero Line LAST DAY November Newsletter Deadline!	22 10:15 Newsletter Production Party 6:30 Choir 7 Small Group 7 Engage GCC 8:30 Band	23 9:30 UWF Board Meeting 7 Sound Bath	24 Brecksville Kiwanis Trick-or-Trot! 
25 Commitment Sunday 8:30 Worship 9:30 Classes&Coffee 10:30 Worship 5:30 Youth Group 5:30 Small Group	26 10:30 Imaginative Prayer 1:30 Genesis Book Study (Zoom)	27 10 Worship Tm 10:30 Staff Mtg 2 Mission Food 7 PRN Virtual Porch	28 7 Breakfast 7 Zero Line	29 9:30 Costume Parade 6:30 Choir 7 Small Group 8:30 Band	30	31 Last day for pumpkins! 

Find calendar updates at www.BrecksvilleUMC.com/calendar



BRECKSVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
65 PUBLIC SQUARE
BRECKSVILLE, OH 44141

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Church Office Hours

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



*Creating safe spaces to grow with God
and one another.*



Our 2026 Church Family Photo



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.