



Brecksville UMC
www.brecksvilleumc.com

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

- 2024-25 -



*Love one another,
as I have loved you.
John 15:12*

Church Office: 440-526-8938

Text: 833-556-1171

Care@BrecksvilleUMC.com

When Will You Be Back?

Yesterday I visited an old man in the hospital.
I was not the only one. We talked on the elevator ride down—
Has he gained any weight? Will he stay in that room?
Does he like the food? Has he called?
All the man wanted to know was, When will you be back?
We ask that question in a thousand different ways
every single day,
our hearts leaning over themselves,
bending to get closer to love.
We say, Text me when you're home.
Call me when you're free.
One more kiss!
I love you all the time.
When will you be back?
What we really mean is—
I can't go through life alone.
Please don't let me go through life alone.

*A Poetry Prayer by Rev. Sara Are Speed
A Sanctified Art*



Brecksville United Methodist Church

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM COMMISSIONING LITURGY

On Sunday, September 22, the 2024-25 Congregational Care Team was commissioned with these promises.

Let us now commission the Congregational Care team in their role as spiritual leaders and listeners.

We ask of the Care Team:

- Are you committed to offering and encouraging pastoral care within this congregation?
- Will you lead by example in your actions and in your words, in your prayers and in your personal spiritual life?
- Will you reach out to those in need with open minds and open hearts, seeking always to be a healing presence: God's hands and feet in the world?

"I will, with the help of God."

We ask of the Congregation:

- Will you place your trust in these people?
- Will you allow yourself, even push yourself, to ask for their care, and to receive their care?
- Will you honor them with the role and responsibilities of lay ministry?

"We will."



The ancient tradition of anointing you with oil that has been blessed in the name of God: in the name of all that is beautiful, true, and good. As this oil absorbs into your skin, may you absorb into your soul all the love and good wishes which surround you in this moment. Let it be an outward reminder of God, who calls you to this work.

"May you remember that your hands are God's hands to those who need your care." Amen.

Congregational Care Team Responds:

We thank you for your faith in us, and vow to do our best to live up to the charge you have given us. We promise, also, to remember that the ultimate responsibility for our church lies with all of us, for this is our home, our community. May we all do what we can to make this a community where we are gathered in the spirit of Jesus, creating safe spaces to grow with God and one another. Amen.





A MINISTRY OF CARING

As a community of followers of Jesus Christ, the Congregational Care Team seeks to live out the commandment "that you love one another as I have loved you" by visiting those within the Brecksville UMC community who aren't able to freely leave their homes, are in assisted care, or experience social or spiritual isolation. This ministry of presence lifts those we serve spiritually, mentally, and emotionally, strengthening their relationship with this church and with God. To join the team or request a visit, contact the office: **440-526-8938**.

ON LISTENING

- Remove distractions. Put away your cell phone. Look for ways to quiet the room.
- Stay in the moment. Try not to think of answers ahead of time.
- Don't interrupt.
- Be attentive. Ask questions.
- Ask about families. Listen to stories.
- Pay attention to tone of voice and non-verbal communication. Is there anything wrong?
- May be good to just sit in silence sometimes. Reflect on that moment.
- When you are there, they are not alone in that moment. You just being there is good.

PRAYER

SHAWLS & BLANKETS

A team of talented crafters meets year-round to stitch prayer shawls and blankets as reminders to show care and as a tangible reminder that the person receiving the shawl or blanket is surrounded in prayer by both those who created the gift and the church family. To request one, please contact the office.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

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PRAYER CHAIN

Email Prayer@BrecksvilleUMC.com

Prayer Request Text Line: 833-556-6671

Elinor Rowan maintains our Prayer Chain
rowanel33@gmail.com or (440) 539-3085

Brecksville United Methodist Church

<https://brecksvilleumc.com/congregational-care-team/>



Journeying Through Grief Books

A Simple, Powerful Way to Care for People Who Are Grieving

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books to send to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Author Kenneth C. Haugk writes in a warm, caring style, with short, easy-to-read chapters. He walks alongside the reader through the grief journey, sharing helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.



Four Books to give at Four Crucial Times

Book 1: A Time to Grieve ... sent 3 weeks after the loss

Book 2: Experiencing Grief ... sent 3 months after the loss

Book 3: Finding Hope and Healing ... sent 6 months after the loss

Book 4: Rebuilding and Remembering... sent 11 months after the loss

Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief—offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope.

Copies available in the Church Office.



WHAT IS CONGREGATIONAL CARE?

What is congregational Care?

- A ministry of presence.
- Care is different for everyone we visit. Some want to talk. Some want to sit in silence. Some want to pray. Some want to tell stories...
- Sharing communion with those who want it.
 - Meet with Pastor Heidi for a training
 - We have a kit. You will share elements which are already blessed.
 - There is a short liturgy if you would like to use it.

"The Concise Guide for Congregational Care" is a great resource. If you would like a copy of this small book, please let Pastor Heidi know. It has resources and encouragement for people experiencing grief, trauma or difficulty.

A few things to keep in mind.

- You are not there to have all the answers, or to give answers!
- You're there to provide a calm, non-anxious presence.
- Listening is the great gift.
- Keep notes. It will help on your next visit and will help you remember how to pray for that person.



A NOTE ABOUT PRAYER

- Often, prayer opens up a pathway for more conversation. Don't save a prayer for the end of your visit. Instead, plan to have more conversation after a prayer. (Pray earlier than you need to leave.)
- Prayer inspires conversation.
- The Lord's Prayer is a traditional element that brings comfort.
- A prayer can be as simple as "God, you've heard the things we've talked about. Be with (name) and give them (strength, comfort, etc...based on what you talked about.)"

FOR SERIOUS ISSUES

Pastoral Care Line
440-290-6671

Suicide Hotline
998

Ohio Domestic Violence Hotline
800-934-9840

Elder Abuse Hotline
855-644-6277
(State of Ohio, 24/7, anonymous)



VISITATION TRACKING CHART

JULY THROUGH DECEMBER 2024

PERSON VISITED:	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	BONUS

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11