

MARCH 2025

# METHODIST MESSAGE

**SPECIAL EDITION**

This Special Edition newsletter is being sent out as a resource for the Breckenridge United Methodist Church to answer questions about the different ministry teams: their purposes, format, and opportunities for the church family to get involved in supporting the ministry teams important tasks.

We hope this special edition newsletter will introduce you to the ministry teams and those currently serving on them and encourage you to get involved in one or two areas of ministry. Everyone's gifts and talents are needed to continue making the BUMC a strong lighthouse for God in the Breckenridge community.

We are all blessed to be a blessing,  
Pastor Billie Lou & the United Leadership Team



## UNITED LEADERSHIP TEAM

The United leadership Team is the governing and visioning board for our church. We are responsible for the maintenance of our church, the proper use of our finances and related items. We are responsible for promoting God's Work by:

1. Leading and guiding a cultural change in our church to help us meet all our goals.
2. Providing support for each ministry team as needed to help with their responsibilities.

### **Team Members:**

Larry Arthur-facilitator, Karen Stoneman, Ryan Randall, Angie Sherwood-LL, Nancy Gee, Edith Humm, Lesha Colthorp, Karen Rohn, Mike Cooper or another Trustee, and Pastor Billie Lou

Members of the United Leadership Team must be actual members of the local church. The United Leadership Team meets minimally four times per year or as needed.

# Breckenridge United Methodist Church 2025 LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Angie Sherwood: Cong. Lay Leader (LL)('27) Nancy Gee: Lay Member to Annual Conference (LMAC)('25)

## **United Leadership Team** (9-11 members) (meets minimally 4 times per year) [must be a member of the church]

- |                                     |                           |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1) Larry Arthur: Facilitator (2027) | 4) Karen Stoneman (2028)  | 7) Ryan Randall (2028)                   |
| 2) Angie Sherwood, LL (2027)        | 5) Nancy Gee, LMAC (2025) | 8) Edith Humm (2026)                     |
| 3) Lesha Colthorp (2028)            | 6) Karen Rohn (2025)      | 9) Mike Cooper or another Trustee (2028) |
- Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown (2028)

## **Staff Pastor Parish Relations Team** (+ 3-4 SLFUMC) (meets 3-4 times per year) [must be a member of the church]

- 1) Karen Stoneman (2027): BUMC Facilitator 2) Marilyn Katt (2026) 3) Lesha Colthorp (2028)  
Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown + Angie Sherwood, LL ('27) Linda Johnston (SL), Charge Facilitator

## **Trustees Team** (3-4, meets as needed) [must be a member of the church]

- 1) Larry Katt (2025) 2) Russell Clark: Interior (2026) 3) Mike Cooper: Exterior (2028)  
Trustees will call upon others to accomplish their tasks

## **Outreach/Missions** (meets as needed) [does not have to be a member of the church]

- 1) Dave Briggs: Facilitator (2027) 4) Christy Schnizlein: Kids/Youth (2028)  
2) Karen & Ray Rohn: Weekend Care, Elders (2025) 5) Greg Shankel: Pantry (2027)  
3) Loretta Briggs: Adults/Community (2027) 6) Lynne & Ken Holloway (2028)

## **Care Team** (meets as needed) [does not need to be a member of the church]

- 1) Lois Arthur: Funeral Dinners/Health Care: Facilitator ('27) 4) Andrea Randall: Fellowship('25)  
2) Sharon Howie: Connection, Care Cards, Visits ('26) 5) Russ Clark & Randalls: Coffee Break  
3) Visitation Team: Ray & Karen Rohn (2025) \_\_\_\_\_(2026) \_\_\_\_\_(2027)

## **Lay Leadership Team** (4 people, meets at least twice) [does have to be a member of the church]

- 1) Ryan Randall (2028) 3) Angie Sherwood, LL (2026)  
2) Linda Nagel (2025) 4) Andrea Randall (2028)  
Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown: Facilitator

## **Christian Education Team** (meets as needed) [does not have to be a member of the church]

- 1) Jackie Cooper: Facilitator (2028) 3) Emily Crambell: Kids (2028)  
2) Christy Schnizlein: Youth (2028) 4) Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown: Adults

## **Finance/Stewardship/Memorial Team** (4-5 people) (meets as needed) [must be a member of the church]

- 1) Edith Humm: Facilitator (2026) 5) Diane Colbry: Memorial/Scholarships (2025)  
2) Larry Arthur (2027) **Scholarship Team:** Dave & Loretta Briggs, Joyce  
3) Lesha Colthorp: Counters (2028) Short, Carin SanMiguel, Nancy Federspiel  
4) Carin SanMiguel, Staff Treasurer (all '25)  
+ Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown + Angie Sherwood, LL, ('27)

## **Worship Team** (3-4 people + 3-4 SLFUMC) (meets as needed) [does not need to be a member]

- 1) Loretta Briggs, Visuals (2027) 3) Christy Schnizlein, Staff Musician  
2) Angie Sherwood, Liturgists (2027) 4) Elaine Napieralski, Handbells (2027)

Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown: Facilitator **Other Worship Leaders:** Dave Stoneman: Greeters/Ushers ('25), Ginger Vetter: Communion Steward ('25), Dave Briggs ('27); Edith Humm ('27): Tech Team

## **Other Positions and Leaders**

Nancy Gee: Administrative Assistant, Membership Secretary; Joyce Short: Library,  
Carin SanMiguel: Church Treasurer, Tiffany O'Brien: Custodian, Jackie Cooper & Sheri Murphy: Nursery  
Staff, Christy Schnizlein: Keyboardist, Karen Short: Kitchen supplies

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Raising children with the knowledge of the Bible and the love of God.

Current members: Emily Crambell, Marisa Bramer, Ryan Randall, Jessica Wright, Lauren Gulick and Jackie Cooper, Facilitator.

Members of the Education Team do not need to be members of the local church. The Team meets as needed.



## CARE TEAM

Health Care and Blood pressure checks monthly— Cortney Harrison, Karen Short, Linda Nagel

Funeral Dinners—Angie Sherwood

Fellowship—Andrea Randall

Connection, Care Cards and Visits—Sharon Howie

Coffee Break—Russ Clark and Ryan Randall

Visitation—Karen and Ray Rohn

Lois Arthur—Facilitator



Members do not need to be members of the local church. The Team meets as needed.

## The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Team

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations team is responsible for monitoring the needs of the staff for Breckenridge United Methodist church. If the need arises, we are responsible for hiring new staff members and addressing issues that might occur. The team meets with the staff on an annual basis or as needed. Each year we review staff contracts and recommend any changes to the United Leadership team. Our team also meets with the Central Bay District Superintendent on an annual basis in conjunction with the St. Louis team to review the Pastoral needs of the charge. We work closely with the St. Louis SPPR team, as we are a two-point charge with a pastor leading both churches. We also represent our congregation at the annual Charge Conference.

To serve on the SPPRC you must be a member of the local church.

The members of our Team are Karen Stoneman; Current facilitator, Marilyn Katt, Leshia Colthorp, Angie Sherwood; Lay leader and Pastor Billie Lou Gillispie-Brown. If you have a question, or if there is ever an issue with any of the staff, please feel free to contact anyone on the team.

## Lay Leadership (formerly Nominations) Team Description

This team/committee is always lead by the Pastor according to the Book of Discipline. The primary task of this team is to connect with each elected leader annually to see if they are willing to continue in leadership and when necessary, to make suggestions about replacements after group discussion and prayer along with the Pastor. Each elected leader should be contacted by the Lay Leadership team annually to make sure elected leaders are still willing and able to lead--checking to make sure that individuals health and availability enables them to continue.

Members of the team must be formal members of the local church.

Following the modified simple Board structure there are 4 elected persons plus the Pastor. The Lay Leader (BUMC=Angie Sherwood-2025) is one of the elected members.

This team meets 2-3 times in the late summer to prepare the elected leadership list for the upcoming Church Conference with the District Superintendent and the following year.

The first time the team meets they look at the current list of leaders to determine if there are any changes that must be made. If there are names that are suggested by the current teams, we pray about those suggestions, but don't conclude because there may be other changes not known at that time that would impact the choices. The current list is divided into phone calls and we set a second meeting date. The team then begins the process of making their phone calls and when they have answers to their phone calls, they let the Pastor know the results so that the list may be updated. At the second meeting we go over the group's results and once again see where changes may need to be made. If there are more phone calls needed, they will be divided again. Prayer is again offered for God's guidance and thankfulness for the faithfulness of all God's servants. The final list is voted upon by those church members who are at the annual Church Conference. Once approved, the list will be made public, in print, and available to all.

Current (2025) members are: Edith Humm, Ryan Randall, Andrea Randall, Angie Sherwood ,LL, and Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—facilitator



## Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for care of the complete interior and exterior of the church. This includes all furnishings and equipment. They make repairs, schedule projects and sign contracts with outside companies as needed. We have very talented, committed and competent Trustees so they are able to make most repairs themselves.

Trustees meet as needed and must be a member of the local church. Trustees are encouraged to ask others to help them on their projects.

Current Trustees are: Mike Cooper, Russell Clark, and Larry Katt.

## Worship Team Description

This team/committee is always lead by the Pastor according to the Book of Discipline. Input is needed & welcomed by the teams as well as others in the congregation. While each church (BUMC & SLFUMC) has its own Worship team they do meet and work together to design worship particularly during the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. They also help to make decisions about worship design while the Pastor is away. We usually meet in person 2-3 times per year and use emails or text messages in between. Members of the team do not need to be formal members of the church.

Following the modified simple Board structure there are 4 elected persons from each congregation plus the Pastor, but they are encouraged to invite others to help with whatever tasks are needed. The Lay Leader (BUMC=Angie Sherwood-2025) from each congregation is one of the elected members, as well as key paid staff musician (BUMC=Christy Schnizlein.) Usually someone who has a passion for worship visuals (decorating) is included in the team (BUMC=Loretta Briggs-2025.) Both churches use Liturgists/Worship Leaders that serve on a rotating basis; at BUMC Angie Sherwood, LL, schedules the Leaders. Other people and tasks that are important to the Worship Team throughout the year are a coordinator of Greeters/Ushers (BUMC=Dave Stoneman-2025,) Tech team (Audio Visuals) (BUMC=Dave Briggs, Edith Humm & new addition, Allison Shelley.) Communion Stewards serve to prepare the communion elements as needed (BUMC=Ginger Vetter-2025.) We are blessed when special music is added to the service by the handbell choir (Elaine Napieralski, Director) or soloists such as Journey Schmeider. BUMC is also blessed to have Sandy Humm available to give Christy Schnizlein a break as keyboardist when needed. A joint choir has been offered during Advent and Easter. The Ad Mins (Nancy Gee=BUMC, Sherri Pilmore=SLF) at both churches are also crucial in preparing the weekly bulletins and worship screens as well as many other tasks.

We offer a thematic, blended style of worship, using both printed bulletins and worship screens. The pre-service starts with three video songs, usually with a more contemporary style, encouraging people to prepare for worship, a children's message is offered weekly and a weekly bag with a kids' activity bulletin, crayon, and treat is offered. There are usually 2-3 hymns and a closing video hymn of the month to learn (also more contemporary.) The message normally follows the 3-year ecumenical liturgical calendar and usually focuses on the Gospel reading for the week. Holy Communion is offered once a month and the Lord's Table is open to all who are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus, the Host. We serve juice instead of wine so that our children may come to the Table.

Current (2025) members are: Loretta Briggs, Elaine Napieralski, Christy Schnizlein, Angie Sherwood, LL, and Pastor Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown



**Worship Team**

## FINANCE TEAM

It falls on me, I guess, since I am facilitator of the Finance Committee, to share with you information on some financial things on the horizon for the Church. You have noticed, I hope, that we have replaced a section of the parking lot up between the brick pillars and the handicap parking area. This area was all broken up and a dangerous hazard for all folks coming in and going out. At the same time, we had the rest of the lot resurfaced and new parking lines put in. This was deemed critical and was done at a cost of \$9,306.00.

The windows in the office area and the Education Wing are in bad shape and have reached the point of needing replacement with the best bid coming in at \$19,000. We hope to accomplish this project this spring or early summer.

We are having the carpet in the dining and entrance area professional cleaned to make it presentable for now. But it is going to need to be replaced in the near future. To keep it in condition to handle food being served for funeral dinners, Fifth Quarter activities and rental quality it was decided that a plank vinyl tile would be best. Tearing out the glued carpet and installation we have two bids. We have one style of \$33,111.12 and another style for \$27,103.64. We are also going to get bids on doing the dining hall in an epoxy flooring. This would be more durable than other options but cost might be a higher consideration.

Please be aware that we may have to do some creative fund raising for these larger ticket items. If you have ideas or suggestions please share them with any member of the United Leadership Team. But it will take more than the ULT to implement any fund raisers so be ready to roll up your sleeves and pitch in to help please.

Edith Humm, Facilitator

The Finance team meets as needed. Members of the Finance Team must be members of the local church.



## OUTREACH

The purpose of our team is to create opportunities for the general public to interact with the members of our church. The outreach ministry attempts to make the community familiar and comfortable with the United Methodist Church. Activities such as Fifth Quarter, the Halloween Trunk and Treat, and Game Nights attract many individuals to our church and may possibly lead to new members. The Weekend CARE project and Food Pantry provide for people in need of help and is what Jesus would want us to do.

The current members of our committee are:

Dave Briggs- Facilitator

Christy Schnizlein, Ray and Karen Rohn, Loretta Briggs, Greg Shankel, Jackie Cooper, Lynne and Ken Halloway.

Members of the team do not need to be members of the local church. The Outreach team usually meets about every other month or as needed.



### UPDATE FROM FEBRUARY 4, 2025 ULT MEETING

1. Approved our 2025 budget. Our budget remained the same with a few minor adjustments. It was noted our income for 2024 was down.
2. We will delay installing a new floor in the Fellowship Hall until it is financially practical. Our plan is to move forward with needed window replacements this spring.
3. Much of the meeting was devoted to ways we can change our church culture. A culture that allows everyone to join in the activities they care about. To have an environment that allows us to bond together as a church family. It is also intended to increase our presence in the community. We want newcomers to see we are an active, loving church to be part of. Some of the activities we are planning are:
  - A. First, start a new dinner service called WOW. WOW is a Wednesday night lite dinner service. It is for anyone that would enjoy the experience. One chapter of the Bible is discussed each week in a dialogue format. Music and prayer are also part of this family oriented opportunity.
  - B. We have started in-home Bible studies. They are available to everyone. Just let us know you are interested.
  - C. For community activities we are looking at doing a 5K race, a barbeque and chili cook off.

To make all this happen we need everyone's ideas and involvement. With our congregations involvement and with faith, all these things are possible.

Larry Arthur, ULT Facilitator

## IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that:  
At least no one ever has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing he knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done" and you'll do it.

Edgar A. Guest  
Submitted by Lois Arthur





**SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS:**

Nancy—Thurs. 8 am—1 pm

**Email Address:**

breckenridgeumc@yahoo.com

**THE METHODIST MESSAGE**

**“SERVING ONE ANOTHER AND SHARING GOD’S LOVE”**

**First United Methodist Church**

125 Third St.

P.O. Box 248

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Billie Lou Gillespie-Brown—Pastor

Office phone: 989-842-3632

9:30 AM worship

**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”**

**\*\*Please notify the church if you wish to be taken off the mailing list.**

**United Methodist Church  
125 Third St.  
PO Box 248  
Breckenridge, MI 48615**

