



Welcome of New Members

Sunday, June 1st, 2025



Martin Bauer

I was born in Canada to German immigrant parents and baptized a Lutheran. We emigrated to the US and settled in Cleveland, and I grew up on the West Side, and later lived in Bay Village. I attended Cleveland State University for my undergraduate degree and then the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. After graduating from the seminary, I started travelling and teaching English as a Second Language. My career has taken me to many states in the US and countries around the world. When I retired, I decided to return

to the West Side of Cleveland to be near relatives, splitting my time between my home here and my cottage in Germany. As I was searching for a new church home in the area, I discovered Good Soil. I especially enjoy Pastor Marissa's sermons and her warm and welcoming manner. I am drawn to the congregation's commitment to reaching out and meeting the community's needs. It was also vital for me that Good Soil was exploring becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation, a commitment my previous congregation in San Antonio has also made.



Jason Cox

My name is Jason Cox and I have a wide range of interests and hobbies. From hosting tabletop roleplaying game nights with my friends to professional wrestling and musical theater (they are more linked than you may think). I am engaged to be married to Amanda Salasek. I experience God in many facets of my life; from the kindness strangers extend to me on the street to the light that sparkles in my nieces and nephews' eyes and the joy in their smiles. I experience God in both my lowest

and greatest moments and I strive to be a better person through them. I was first drawn to Good Soil thanks to the incredible congregation who made me feel welcome when I first stepped through the doors of the church. I keep coming back because the message of the sermons resonate with me on many levels.



Jill McCourt

I was raised in Michigan in the ELCA church, where I first felt a strong sense of community and faith. Since moving to Cleveland and transitioning to Catholicism—my husband John’s faith tradition—I’ve often reflected on that feeling of home and how faith continues to shape my journey. For the past 23 years, I’ve worked as a nurse practitioner at MetroHealth, currently serving in the pulmonary department. I love spending time with my two children, Jack (20) and Kiley (17), and our beloved dog Milo, who proudly runs the household. When I’m not at work, I enjoy yoga, quiet family moments, and the steady support of life with John by my side.



Amanda Salasek

My interests include reading, playing board games, and going for walks. I was born and raised here in Cleveland with my parents. I’m currently engaged to get married to Jay Cox. I experience God every day through my interactions with other people and through reflecting on God’s goodness. I was drawn to Good Soil because of the welcoming community and because it is a congregation that matches my beliefs about God and the world. I keep coming back because I enjoy being a part of this community.



Stormy Younger

Hello! We are the Younger Household. My husband and I have been together 10 years. We have 4 children together: James, John, Jack, and Josie. We love spending time outside, at the park, in the water, or even just in our backyard. We experience God by spending time in scripture together, watching wholesome movies, and engaging in theological discussions. We were recommended Good Soil by a family member but we keep coming back because of the loving and welcoming environment we experience each week.