



**OLD NORTH**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

# Leader Bios

2026-2027

# STAFF



## Pastor Josiah Rios

Middle School Pastor  
[jrios@oldnorthchurch.org](mailto:jrios@oldnorthchurch.org)

It has truly been a joy to serve as Old North's Middle School Pastor for 6 years now. I couldn't do it without the support of my wife, Grace. We have 4 wonderful children, Liliana, Jedidiah, Selah, and Evangelina, with number 5 on the way! Before coming to Old North, I served at Grace Church in the Akron area while I earned my bachelors degree from Moody Bible Institute and my masters degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Middle schoolers have always held a special place in my heart since they not only have the ability to grasp deep concepts and ask big questions, but they also like to have fun. We couldn't serve your family without the team you see below!



## Bethany Hearne

Student Ministry Coordinator  
[bhearne@oldnorthchurch.org](mailto:bhearne@oldnorthchurch.org)

When I was in middle school, God used a few women in their twenties to disciple me and encourage me to pursue Christ. Now, I have the privilege of working at Old North and doing the same for our middle schoolers! My husband, Josh, and I have attended Old North for a little over two years, and we have loved being part of this church family. I graduated from Cedarville University with a Master of Divinity, where I was equipped to teach and faithfully handle God's Word while gaining practical skills for ministering to God's people, specifically women and youth. I'm looking forward to seeing how God works in the hearts of our middle schoolers this school year!

# 5TH GRADE GIRLS



Heidi Hoffman

Hi! My name is Heidi Hoffman! This is my 2nd year serving in middle school ministry, but I have served in both the children's ministry and the Bible Talks. I have attended Old North since I was 9 years old. I am a teacher and I coach cross country and track. I love to do crafts, watch all Ohio sports teams, and eat sour candy! I am excited to get to know the students and share the good news of Jesus with them!



Laura Denny

I'm wife to Philip and mom to Julia (20), Leah (18) and Nathanael (16). I've been coming to Old North since 2004 and have loved serving in many areas over the years. Middle schoolers are at a unique stage in their lives and spiritual growth, where they first start learning, understanding and believing for themselves. I'm excited to be a part of that growth, helping them learn and love Jesus more, read and understand the Bible more, and grow in confidence and joy in the truth of the gospel.



Grace Rios

I've been married to Pastor Si for 9 years this past July, and we have four children and are expecting our fifth in February! I've been working with middle school aged students since I was a senior in high school, and I taught middle school and high school at two different schools in the Akron area before becoming a stay at home mama and homeschooling our kids. I love and am glad to work with middle school students because they are at a point in life where they are so moldable and eager to learn—it's such a gift to be able to ground them in Jesus and to experience their joy amidst the awkwardness of their phase of life.

# 5TH GRADE GUYS



Bill Trunick

God has been gracious to me by giving me Christian parents that raised me in the church and prioritized the reading of God's Word regularly. I have been married to my wife Carrie since 2003, and we have since been blessed with 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls and 2 grandchildren. I am a sinner saved by grace. I love God's Word, God's people, and helping people (children) apply God's Word to their lives and draw closer to God.



Bradley Linton

My wife Breanna and I have been coming to Old North for over 6 years now. We have two crazy cats, Pancake and Stark. This is my second year serving in Middle School Ministry which I am so blessed for this amazing opportunity to come back! I enjoy golfing, I'm a big board game fanatic and just love spending time with friends and family. My wife and I enjoy traveling, and I may not be a dad but I'm a pretty big dad joke enthusiast. I'm beyond excited to help these students grow in their maturity with their faith and serving with my peers!



Sam Osborn

I've been coming to Old North since 2015. I currently work at Beard Pension Services a wealth management group in Canfield processing their 401k contributions. I've been helping out on Wednesday nights for 5 years now and I'm super excited to hang out with the kids and help them grow in their love for Jesus!



Anthony Mazella

Hi! My name is Anthony Mazzella, and I've been attending ONC for as long as I can remember. I am currently a 3rd year student at Youngstown State in the BaccMed (BS/MD) program with Northeast Ohio Medical University. In my free time, I coach football for Canfield as well as play golf, pickleball, and hoop with friends. I am looking forward to serving with the middle school this year as we are all called to ministry in some way, and I can't wait to see the amazing ways the Lord works through our team!

# 6TH GRADE GIRLS



## Carrie Trunick

I have the awesome privilege of being a growth group leader to your 6th grade girls every Sunday morning! In my free time, I enjoy time with friends and family, game nights, coffee, shopping, nature, and photography! My husband Bill and I have been blessed with 8 children on earth and 2 in heaven. We also have 2 of the sweetest granddaughters!! We live in Youngstown and have been going to Old North for 11 years.



## Luann Winters

As a young person, I felt led to work with the poor and had planned to use a degree in education for that purpose. I worked in Appalachia and especially loved working with middle schoolers. Today, I work at Haven of Rest in Akron with women and children who are homeless helping them look beyond their current situation to find hope and purpose in Jesus Christ. At Old North, I am privileged to be part of the middle school ministry. Engaging with the students, especially the girls, and helping them discover their identity in Christ and not in the things of this world brings me great joy. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious.



## LeeAnna Franken

I've been going to Old North for 6 years and have served in middle school ministry for 4 of those years. I am a fifth grade teacher at Niles Intermediate School. It brings my heart a lot of joy to see middle schoolers desiring to learn more about Jesus and how our lives should reflect Him. I'm excited to serve this year with my soon to be husband and encourage these students in their own personal walk with Christ.



## Kayla Aluise

I want to serve in the middle school ministry because I enjoy working with kids as they learn to understand the Bible more and to see their faith grow amidst many challenges in school, sports and relationships. It's also cool to learn and grow with them, as I believe we are never too old to hear the simple and foundational stories and themes that are taught at a young age.

# 6TH GRADE GUYS



RJ Esbenshade

Hi! I'm a Validation Engineer in the tech industry. Raised as an only child in a Christian household, I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at the age of four. I'm a huge sports fan, always cheering for the Buckeyes, LA Rams, and St. Louis Cardinals. When I'm not watching a game, you can usually find me working out or playing video games with friends. I am excited to continue serving and watching our students grow in their relationship with Christ.



RJ Rees

I'm a husband, dad of five, and a sales leader by profession. I have a passion for coaching, encouraging others, and helping people grow into the best version of themselves. I'm excited to serve with the Middle School Ministry, build relationships with the students, and help create an environment where they can have fun, ask questions, and grow in their faith.



Braedan Pugh

My name is Braeden Pugh. I really love anything outdoors and ketchup. This is my second year serving with my soon to be wife LeeAnna and I am so excited to grow with her. I really want to be involved in middle school ministry to provide what I did not have growing up. I want to be present and help these kids grow in their faith and become closer to Jesus.



Dan Aluise

My name is Dan Aluise, my wife, Kayla Aluise, and I have been married for 14 years and we are blessed to have three sons (10, 7 & 1 years old). Kayla and I have been attending Old North Church for 13 years and have been so encouraged by seeing the pastors and volunteers intentionally teach the Bible to our kids and show them the importance of trusting God through the crucial years of school. I am excited for the opportunity to hopefully encourage middle school students through their walk with Jesus.

# 7TH GRADE GIRLS



Rachel Schiele

Hello! I have been married to my husband, Brian, for 19 years, have two children—Cayden and Kynsley, and call Canfield our home! I am humbled to be a part of Sunday morning Growth Groups! My hope for the middle school group is that they choose Christ and grow in their personal relationship with Him!



Evelyn Davis

Hello! I have a brother named Eliot and a sister named Hope and my parents are Todd and Sara Davis. I have been coming to Old North since 7th grade. Something I'm looking forward to this upcoming year is seeing middle schoolers grow and mature in their faith in Christ



Kamryn Zeock

I graduated last spring from YSU and am currently working at Valley Christian Early Learning Center at Old North. I have been coming to Old North for almost three years and am very active in the college ministry, The Bible Talks. This will be my second year serving in the middle school ministry, and I am very excited to get to know the seventh grade girls and to see how the Lord grows them and works through them throughout this school year. For the middle school bio ^^



Alexa McKinney

My name is Alexa McKinney and I live in Lisbon with my husband, Mike, of 9 years and our sweet 2 year old, Caleb. We have grown up at Old North and love our church which compells me to serve this school year. These were the years my faith was grown as a child and so I want to give back to the next generation as they grow in Christ.

# 7TH GRADE GUYS



**Justin Weingart**

My wife (Toni), our two kids, and I live in Canfield, and have been attending Old North Church for three years. I am so blessed and excited to help serve the middle schoolers this year as I try to help them further their relationship and knowledge of our Heavenly Father.



**Dave Yost**

My wife Brittany and I live in Columbiana and have three kids ages 7, 9, and 11. I've had the privilege of playing drums at Old North for the past 10 years! During the week I work at an insurance office, and when work's over, I enjoy paddle boarding, rock climbing, and building legos! I'm excited about the opportunity to study God's word alongside our middle school students this year.



**Lance Hall**

Hello I'm Lance Hall I'm 24, I graduated from Fitch High School, I work as a product specialist for #1 Cochran. One of my favorite things to do is to play pickleball with my friends. I am most excited to see the middle schoolers growth in maturity in their faith and have a desire for God and His word.



**Mike McKinney**

Hi I'm Mike McKinney. My wife is Alexa McKinney and we have been married for nine years. We have a son, Caleb, who is two years old. We are both from the Youngstown area and live in Lisbon, Ohio.

# 8TH GRADE GIRLS



Kelcie Schiraldi

I have been attending Old North with my family for nine years and have helped with middle school for four years. My husband Anthony and I have four daughters; Lena, Rae'Lah, Ava, and Maria and two sons, Si and Cruz. I love gardening and running. One of my favorite parts about serving in the Middle School Ministry is helping young girls find their identity in Christ, and find the value in Him instead of in the things of the world.



Toni Weingart

My family and I live in Canfield and this is my third year helping with the middle schoolers at Old North. I have a passion for this age group and I look forward to an awesome year with them.



Cait Pennington

Hi! My name is Cait, I live in Struthers with my husband, Noah. I am so excited to serve as a middle school leader this year and provide guidance to our students in this season of their lives. My hobbies are baking, photography and spending time with my family and friends.



Jessica Conrad

I live in Columbiana with my husband Justin and our 4 kids. We have attended Old North for nine years. I enjoy reading, gardening, puzzles, and thrifting. I'm looking forward to working with the 8th grade girls this year!

# 8TH GRADE GUYS



**Todd Mains**

My wife, Amy, and I, along with our 2 kids, Eli and Emma, have been attending ONC for 6 years. This is my 5th year in MS ministry, and it has been such a joy serving alongside Pastor Si and getting to invest in the lives of the MS students. Before coming to ONC, we attended and served at Venture Church in Austintown, EBC in NJ, and 1st Baptist Moore in OK. Over the years, we've had the opportunity to be involved in both student and adult ministries, as well as various evangelism efforts. We're excited for the upcoming year and look forward to seeing how the Lord continues to work in the lives of our students!



**Tim Blough**

I'm married to a wonderful woman, Alycia, and six great kids, Elijah, Tobias, Eliana, Jonathan, Judah, and Solomon. I want to see the younger generations know who Jesus is and what he has done for them.



**Noah Pennington**

Hi, my name is Noah and I live in Struthers with my wife, Cait. I currently serve on the worship ministry. I volunteered to serve with ONC middle school to provide our students with a foundation for biblical confidence and maturity in Christ.



**Grant Strong**

I have moved to Canfield with my family from England in the summer of 2023. I have been a teacher for over twenty years and have a Christ-led passion to encourage, care for and prayerfully inspire young children towards the Lord. Seeing how Old North nurtures and instills the love of God towards its members, visitors and the wider community has drawn me to serve and further Christ's kingdom with the Bible at the heart of it all!

# COORDINATORS



Joe Osborn

I am married to Courtney Osborn (13 years) and father of 4 young children (Rose, Judah, Louisa and Violet). We live in Columbiana and our family has been attending Old North since December 2020. I grew up locally going to Heartland Christian in Middle and High School before going on to graduate from Cedarville University in 2011. Currently I am a small business owner and enjoy spending my time with my family both at home and at Old North.



Connor Norbo

Hi, I'm Connor and I graduated from Heartland Christian School. This is my second year working in middle school ministry. I'm so excited because I wanna help kids know who God is and help them understand the Bible.