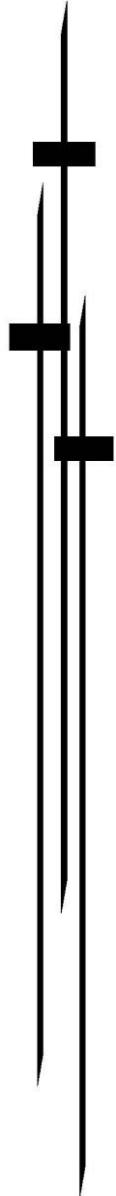


# The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

**August, 2018**



***Loving, Serving, and Accepting All People  
With God's Life-Changing Power***

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

### ***...on the God of Nature, and the Nature of God...***

In one of his great sermons, in the great outdoors, Jesus says, “Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Parent feeds them....Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these....Will God not much more clothe you - O you of little faith?” [from The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:26-30]

This passage is often, quite correctly, interpreted as an expression of the Divine care and provision for humankind. In it, Jesus is encouraging us to let-go of our incessant worrying about things. Yet there is another angle from which we can view this teaching.

So much of human history reveals that we somehow think that we are the only important species of life on this planet - that everything revolves around us. For centuries, we even believed that the Earth was the center around which the entire universe revolved! We have often acted as if human beings were the sole and solitary concern of the Holy One; as if the rest of Creation was simply a stage for the ongoing drama of human life. We could plunder, pollute, and mistreat the earth “for our own good.” [That’s not working out so well for us!] We could hunt animals into extinction and destroy ecosystems ,because they were somehow less precious than we ourselves. Essentially, we forgot that the whole of Creation has a role and purpose in the Creator’s Unfolding Story. In doing so, we have damaged our own environment, diminished our own souls, and cut-off an important part of our connection to the Divine.

The good news is, that we can still reverse the process and begin to repair the damage. Every day we have opportunities to reconnect and relate to the majestic beauty and wonder of Holy One, by recognizing and appreciating the majestic beauty and wonder of the world around us. We can take time to actually “*look at the birds of the air*” and “*consider the lilies of the field*.” We can rediscover our proper place as just one of the myriad of marvelous facets of Creation; and we can recommit ourselves to the care and redemption of all Life around us.

Summertime is a wonderful time for you and me to reestablish our link and our lifeline to the world in which we live. In doing so, we will likely find that our lives will be recharged, and our spirits refreshed and renewed.

With you on the Journey,  
Pastor Dave

If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Pastor Dave at the church office [440-526-4364] or at home [440-546-1193]. He will be glad to meet with you.

**WORSHIP IN THE PARK!** On Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, we will head to the great outdoors for our annual Worship in the Park. Come join us in Richfield Woods Park for bagels at 10:00 and worship at 10:30 with our friends from the Richfield UCC. Maps to the park and Richfield UCC [in the unlikely event of rain] are available in the church office.

## **Welcome & Growth Events**

This month, our Welcome & Growth Task-Force presents three opportunities for members of BUCC and our wider community to gather and grow. On three consecutive Monday evenings, we will show three *TED Talks* that we will use as a springboard for some timely discussions. Here are the speakers and topics for our gatherings:

Aug. 6 - Jonathan Haidt - Can a Divided America Heal?

[This video offers some excellent insight on the root causes of much of our nation's current social and political divide, plus some practical steps we can take to bridge those gaps.]

Aug. 13 - Verna Myers - How to Overcome our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them

[This presentation gives an honest and personal look at racism in our culture, and underlines the importance of our acknowledging it, in order to begin to overcome it] ►

Aug. 20 - Karen Armstrong - My Wish: The Charter for Compassion  
[In this talk, Armstrong traces the primary link among the major religions: the Divine call for compassion. She concludes with a plea for a unifying “charter” that affirms the Golden Rule - a teaching expressed in all faith traditions.]

These events will begin at 7:00pm in Pilgrim Hall. In addition to viewing the approximately 20-minute-long video, we will also share some light refreshments and some lively conversations. Each evening and topic can “stand alone” - so feel free to attend any or all of them; and please invite a friend to join you!

### **Confirmation Class Reminder....**

Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 4pm, we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation Class Extravaganza! Remember to read Luke’s Gospel and the Book of Acts, and summarize a story or event from each of those books to share with the class.

## **FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**WHEN:** The Annual Church Picnic is on August 5 at noon.

**WHERE:** 9256 Highland Drive  
Brecksville.

**\*Please get your name on the signup sheet or call Kathy Smith at 440-343-6354.**



***Continued ►***

\*There will be swimming fishing and games.

\*We are bringing back the pie baking contest with wonderful prizes.

\*Mark your calendar for this date and we will see you at the picnic!

## **NEWS FROM OCWM**



BUCC is a member of the Brookside Cluster Community Meal group, and each June or AUG. the group meets to select sites and dates for hunger meals for the next 12 months. Last June the group met, and attendance by churches was sparse, although several had indicated their choices by telephone. The churches in attendance each selected an extra meal. The list of sites and dates for BUCC between now and August 2019 are as follows:

\*October 7, 2018 at Iglesia Immanuel (formerly Bethany UCC; recently Bethany's building was purchased by Iglesia Immanuel Church)

\*November 18, 2018 at Pearl Road UMC in partnership with Independence UMC

\*January 6, 2019 at Iglesia Immanuel Church

\* March 31, 2019 at Pearl Road UMC with Independence UMC

\* May 19, 2019 at Pearl Road UMC with Independence UMC

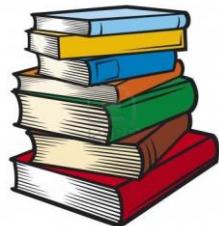
\*August 4, 2019 at Iglesia Immanuel

It is realized that this is a larger list of meals than last year but the need is still there, and there are fewer churches participating. It is felt that we can do this extra meal, and it will be nice to have Independence UMC as partners.

## **NOTES AND ASIDES**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Will meet on August 6, at 1:00 pm in the Parlor.



### **FOOD PANTRY**

**August** - Dish, Hand, and Laundry Soap



### **WOMEN UNITED**

Please watch the Bulletin for future gathering information.



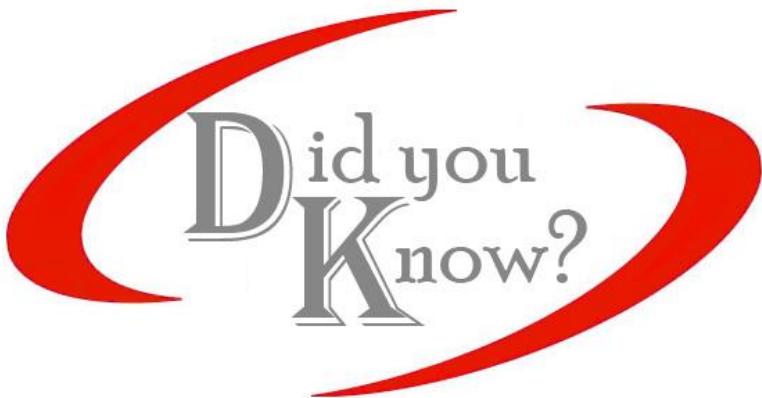


# *Birthdays of the Month*

Happy, Happy August Birthdays to the following BUCC Members!  
Please share in their joy and wish them a Happy Birthday!

August 1:	Shauna Bigelow
August 2:	Mike Corrado
August 4:	Morgan Constanzo
August 6:	Paul Nicholas
	Owen Rees
August 8:	Betty Gifford
August 9:	Rachel Brown
	Kathy Ford
August 11:	Beth Rehling
August 14:	Lee Sanderson
August 15:	Dave Bernard
	George Snider
August 18:	Bettina Ortiz
August 25:	Zachary Novak
August 30:	Claire Novak
Other August Birthdays	Courtini Began

***If you have an August Birthday and are not included above, please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC Birthday List!***



**Did you know** that the original church building was built without a basement? When a basement was added in the early 1900's to provide Sunday school space, it was necessary to install an extensive series of pipe-pillars to support all of the existing load points. These provided places for hanging curtains to make classrooms but also a maze of obstacles used by the students as a play area. It is said that our newsletter's name is a remnant of these pillars of our old church building.

**Did you know** that BUCC used on-street parking in front of our church building for many years? That involved perpendicular parking on the south side of Rte 82 and parallel parking on the north side. When the highway was widened to its present width, our church began an active program to acquire properties that could provide needed off-street parking. The first such purchases were the Barton and Tesmer properties immediately behind the church leading to Arlington Street which provided the space of only about 1/3 of our present parking area. This continued to be our only parking area until the Opening Door project was completed.

**Did you know** that our church bell was recovered from the basement where it had fallen during the tragic 1965 fire that destroyed our sanctuary? In the old church it had been rung before worship by the deacons using a rope in the narthex. It is now rung electrically by the organist. This bell and the one in the Methodist church were tuned to each other so that when they were rung at the same time before worships on Sunday morning, the sounds would be pleasant.

**Did you know** that the Brecksville Congregational Church (our former name) sold a small piece of land at the northwest corner of its property to the Coates general store for their expansion which included the first Packard hardware store? When the Coates store was eliminated when the westbound Route 82 was changed in 1937 to follow along a widened Highland Drive instead of Stadium drive, we reacquired the exact same piece. By then it was 7 feet wider, reflecting a correction for a surveying error made in the original deed.

## CALENDAR

### AUGUST, 2018

Wednesday, AUG. 1	Tuesday, AUG. 14 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	Sunday, AUG. 26 10:30 am Outdoor Worship Richfield Park
Thursday, AUG2 1 pm      Bible Study	Wednesday, AUG. 15 <b>PILLAR DEADLINE</b>	Monday, AUG.27
Friday, AUG. 3 <b>*OFFICE CLOSED*</b>	Thursday, AUG. 16 1 pm      Bible Study	Tuesday, AUG. 28
Saturday, AUG. 4	Friday, AUG. 17 <b>*OFFICE CLOSED*</b>	Wednesday, AUG., 29
Sunday, AUG .5 10 am      Worship 11 am      Coffee Hour	Saturday, AUG.18	Thursday, Aug., 30 1 pm      Bible Study
Monday, AUG.6 1 pm      Book Discussion 7 pm      Facilities 7 pm      TED Talk PH	Sunday, AUG. 19 10 am      Worship Service 11 am      Coffee Hour	Friday, Aug. 31 <b>*OFFICE CLOSED*</b>
Tuesday, AUG.7	Monday, AUG. 20 7 pm      TED Talk PH	
Wednesday, AUG.8 7 pm <b>NO COUNCIL</b>	Tuesday, AUG. 21	
Thursday, AUG. 9 1 pm      Bible Study	Wednesday, AUG. 22	
Friday, AUG. 10 <b>*OFFICE CLOSED*</b>	Thursday, AUG. 23 1 pm      Bible Study	
Saturday, AUG. 11	Friday, AUG. 24 <b>*OFFICE CLOSED*</b>	
Sunday, AUG. 12 <b>PILLAR DEADLINE</b> 10 am      Worship 11 am      Coffee Hour	Saturday, AUG. 25	
Monday, AUG. 137 pm TED Talk PH		

## **PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP**

### **AUGUST 5, 2018**

Lay Reader: Tia Began  
Head Usher: Anne Melfo  
Ushers: Dot & Stu Bailey  
Carole & George Snider  
Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
Peace Candle: Ben Davis  
Sound: Max Roha  
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul  
Flowers: Fred Pesek  
Nursery: Marla Corrado  
C.E Teacher: Tia Began  
Counters: Nancy Stella, Kathy Pastor  
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel  
Clean-up: Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan  
Snacks: Gina Cook, Beth Rehling

### **AUGUST 12, 2018**

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel  
Ushers: Betty Kaul, Sam Koch  
David & Kathy Pastor  
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett  
Peace Candle: Drew Demko  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler  
Flowers: Dot Bailey  
Nursery: Jonathan Cook  
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling  
Counters: Dave Bernard,  
Kate Klonowski  
Servers: Marge Culver, Julie  
Bernard  
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy  
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights  
Diane Gressley

### **AUGUST 19, 2018**

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly  
Head Usher: Jon Thompson  
Ushers: Tim & Kim Wallis  
Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan  
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart  
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski  
Sound: Ben Tomlinson  
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey  
Flowers: Dorie Gabor  
Nursery: Valerie Tyler  
C.E Teacher: Kathleen Stewart  
Counters: Jim Duffy, Jan  
Renovetz  
Servers: Joanne Cook, Caroline  
Chandler  
Clean-Up: Cliff & Sue Stenzel  
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Erin  
Tomlinson

### **AUGUST 26, 2018**

**\*\*OUTDOOR SERVIVE WITH  
RICHFIELD UCC\*\***

# *The Pillar*

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