

The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

May 2020



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

TAKING CARE OF THE EARTH

*"The Earth is YHWH's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it."*

Psalm 24: 1

April 22nd is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Earth Day was inspired by an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, in January, 1969. Distressed by the destruction they saw, several of the frontline workers started pushing for environmental reforms.

The time was right. Just the previous year, in December 1968, Apollo 8 had taken a picture of the earth rising as they orbited the moon. (Google "earthrise photo" to see it!) Astronaut Jim Lovell had called it "a grand oasis in the big vastness of space." The photo contributed to the feeling that the earth was a fragile planet, and we have to take care of it.

The picture's publication increased even further the growing environmental awareness spurred by Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, about the environmental destruction caused by pesticides. Carson's book is usually seen as the beginning of the environmental movement.

But as Christians, we can look further back. The beginning of all Christian theology of the environment is the claim that the earth is not ours at all, but that it belongs to God. We are thus not entitled to do whatever we want to it. We are stewards who have to hand it on to future generations, and who have to give an accounting of our use of it to God.

A stream of theology coming from Genesis once held that humans were to multiply and fill the earth, and to subdue it, and rule over the animals. However, more recent study has shown that the verb meaning *have dominion* should "be understood in terms of care-giving, even nurturing, not exploitation" (New Interpreters Bible, Genesis, p. 346). Moreover, the verb for *subduing* the earth "involves development of the created order," not destruction.

Clearly there is no command that allows strip mining off the top of mountains, or fishing the cod of the Grand Banks to extinction.

Jesus' own life showed a love of nature and solitary places, as well as a command over the wind and the waves that was used to bring peace and order out of the midst of terrifying chaos. He demonstrates a right relation to nature and the environment.

After 50 years of celebrating Earth Day, we can see even more clearly how fragile our environment is, and how we need to be better stewards of God's earth lest we face a return of terrifying chaos.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Worshipping Together in a Virtual Way

Here are some further instructions for our current approach to online/dial-in worship, using the ZOOM conference service. There are two ways to join:

1. PHONE:

If you want to call in:

Dial-in Worship Service:

(our new phone number) 1-929-205-6099

then enter meeting ID (followed by the # sign):

478 070 5901 #

During the call, you can unmute yourself by pressing *6, to say something that all will hear. Then press *6 to mute yourself again. Hang up at the end of the service.

2. COMPUTER / SMARTPHONE / IPAD:

If you want to connect with your computer, follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>

If you have not used Zoom before, you may have to download the app the first time you click on the link with your computer.

If you have a smart phone or iPad, you can go to the app store and search for Zoom Cloud Meetings:



When you click or the link from the email or start the Zoom app on your phone, you may not automatically go into our meeting. If so, press the Join a Meeting button, then you get a screen that asks you for the Meeting ID. Enter: 478 070 5901.



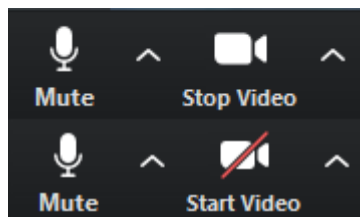
meeting.
button,

In general, you should use your computer/smartphone/iPad's audio. If you have turned on your video camera, it gives you a chance to see what others will see when you join the meeting.

In general, to ensure the best listening experience for everyone, you should be "on mute" most of the time, unless you have something specific to say to everyone.

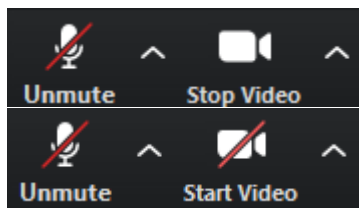
During the service, you should see these controls:

- on the lower left of your computer screen
- on the lower left of your smart phone
- on the upper right of your iPad



People can see and hear you

People cannot see you, but
they can hear you

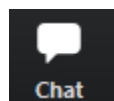


People can see you, but cannot hear you. *(Best for everyone else on the call)*

No one can see or hear you
x

The controls show what will happen when you click on them. You toggle between “on” and “off” settings. On your smartphone & iPad, these controls also alternate between red and green.

You can type a note that anyone can see by Chat icon:



using the

At the end of the meeting, or if you need to leave, you click on the Leave Meeting control, or exit the app.

Leave Meeting

We will be improving our Virtual Worship techniques as time progresses.

If you have further questions, please contact me or anyone else in the Communication & Outreach Ministry

Jim Duffy

jmorganduffy@gmail.com 216-644-2784

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



The Leadership Development Ministry is charged with organizing the Pastor Search Ministry by the end of May. We are looking for 7 church members who desire to serve on this temporary ministry. We need a broad cross-section of our membership: youth, aged, single, married, straight, gay, parents, long-time members, and newer members. Please realize that this commitment will last a year or two. It will take time and dedication. It is a big responsibility, but it

is one that is important and necessary. Our plan is to ask for volunteers as soon as possible, then see if we have a good mix of our membership or if we need to seek out others. **Please send an email soon expressing your interest and why you want to serve to Bridget Sproul, Leadership Development Chairperson, at sproulbridget@yahoo.com. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this crucial ministry.**

OCWM

EDNA HOUSE OFFERING – MAY 10

Brecksville UCC and Our Church's Wider Mission are thrilled to be supporting Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio again this year. Edna House was founded in 2004. Its mission is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live. To date, Edna House has started over 1,200 women on the road to recovery. The only requirement for admission is the desire to get sober, regardless of their ability to pay.



Edna House provides for a woman's basic needs of food, shelter and safety so that she can focus solely on her recovery with the support, direction and guidance of experienced members of the recovering community. Edna House is independent of government funding and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities they serve. Executive Director Jenn Lasky, her staff and residents are extremely grateful for all the help we give them.

In addition to cash donations, items needed and appreciated at this time are postage stamps, gift cards to Office Max (for office supplies), gift cards to Save a Lot, Marcs or Walmart which help them with incidental food needs. All of their our food comes from donations, but they often need things like butter, pasta sauce, sugar etc. to make a meal from what has been donated. For more information, go to <https://ednahouse.org/>

Please consider supporting Edna House on May 10, when we will hear a continuing testament from an Edna House alumna.

AN UPDATE ON HUNGER MEALS

On Sunday, APRIL 5th, a hunger meal was provided at Iglesia Emmanuel. Due to the coronavirus, the meal was a "takeaway", meaning that sandwiches were provided, and participants picked up their meal and took



them away to eat elsewhere. This is usually a quick meal to prepare, and a minimum crew is needed to get everything done. Kate, Matt, and Evie were the first to volunteer, so they were "hired".

When the participants arrived, they started with a plastic bag, and added a sandwich, banana, cookies, and a bottle of water. About 30 persons were expected, and we prepared enough for about 40 persons. Only 17 showed up, so they went away with at least double provisions. This took only about 30 minutes.

The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, June 7th at Iglesia Emmanuel, and unless things radically improve with the coronavirus, this will also be a “takeaway” meal. More on that as the time gets closer.

The last scheduled hunger meal will be on Sunday, August 30th at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. The same “if” situation applies to this meal also. Again, more on this as the time gets closer.

Traditionally, the hunger meal group meets in June or July to select dates for each of the places where meals are served. We should receive notice of this meeting before soon. But rest assured, the hunger meals will be served as usual. Bob Chandler

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning.



The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 6:45 pm -8:30 pm. **For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415**

STEWARDSHIP

Tips for Feeling Better During The Pandemic, Matt Wolbert, Stewardship Committee



Sheltering in place can feel like a prison sentence to many people. The restriction of movement, lack of work, and separation from friends and family brings added stress and anxiety to people of all ages. Here are some tips from the Stewardship Committee for handling the situation in a mindful and healthy way:

- 1) **Physically isolating does not mean socially isolating.** While you are maintaining physical distance, be careful to avoid isolating yourself socially. This is especially true if you live alone. Be sure to stay in frequent contact with friends and family by phone, or by any of the various phone/computer applications that allow you to chat face to face. FaceTime, Zoom, and Houseparty are all programs that are easy to use and can keep you feeling more in touch with the people in your life.
2. **Limit your time watching the news.** Watching the news too often will most likely increase your stress level rather than calming you down. Try to limit your news watching to about the same amount of time you watched prior to sheltering in place. Find news sources that explain the day's events calmly and rationally, rather than those that try to increase the sense of disaster day after day.
3. **View some good news every day.** Don't spend all your time focusing on the tragedies involved with COVID-19. Actively seek out some good or lighthearted things that have happened in the world. For instance, our family recently found an online article about the birth of a zonkey! (A zebra-donkey hybrid).
4. **Get outside and walk!** Exercise truly is a great medicine for stress. Moving increases endorphin levels (the happy signal molecules in your brain) and decreases cortisol levels (a hormone that is released in response to stress). Getting outside on a sunny day also activates the vitamin D in your system, which helps improve mood.

5. Limit your alcohol use. It is very easy when one is home all day to drink more frequently than usual. Try to limit your alcohol use to what it was before isolation went into effect. While the short term “buzz” of a drink can make one feel better about the situation, alcohol is a depressant in the long term. The additive effects of daily drinking will make the situation feel worse over time.

6. Seek help if you need it. If you are feeling alone, afraid, anxious... reach out to friends or fellow church members! Most people have a great sense of relief when they discuss how they feel with others. If your anxiety feels too overwhelming, most major healthcare providers (including Cleveland Clinic and UH) now offer virtual visits with physicians. Virtual visits are also a great way to handle minor healthcare issues while sheltering in place.

Cleveland Clinic virtual visits: Go to my.clevelandclinic.org About halfway down the page, click on the tab that says “start a virtual visit”.
UH virtual visits: Go to uhhospitals.org Click the main menu button on the top left. Choose “schedule an appointment now” from the list of options.

Above all else, remember that humanity has survived many pandemics before. We will survive this one as well... together!

NOTES AND ASIDES

MUSIC



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, rehearsals for BUCC's music ensembles during the month of May will be cancelled. If the situation changes as May progresses, members of our choirs and instrumental groups will be notified via email. Thank you for your patience and continued efforts to get the current coronavirus pandemic under control. -Dave D.

A NEED FOR PET SHELTER DONATIONS

The items needed are - old blankets, bedding/linens, towels, pet items like collars, toys, beds, food/water bowls, Purina dog and cat food, and anything else that might be good for pets. It is going to the Northeast Ohio SPCA on Brookpark Road. It is a no kill shelter and the animals are cared for there until they find a forever home :)



If church members would like to donate, they can give the items to Marla at any time or just leave them on the pew in the entry way with my name or "pet shelter donation" written on them. I'll collect them whenever they are placed there. If anyone has any other questions, please contact Marla Corrado.



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

May 2:	Allan Lane
May 7:	Lindsey Maier
May 9:	Michele Marcus
May 10:	Fred Pesek
May 12:	Gina Cook
May 18:	Terry Heiman
May 21:	Danyel Esser
	James Tyler
May 26:	David Ritchey
May 30:	Lenore Harris
	Peg Duffy

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



CALENDAR MAY 2020

Due to Social Distancing that we are practicing - there are no Meetings, or events planned for the month of MAY. If anything changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Friday, MAY 1
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 2

Sunday, MAY 3
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Monday, MAY 4

Tuesday, MAY 5

Wed., MAY 6

Thurs., MAY 7

Friday, MAY 8
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY, 9

Sunday, MAY, 10
Mother's Day
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Monday, MAY 11

Tuesday, MAY 12

Wed., MAY 13
PILLAR DEADLINE

Thurs., MAY 14

Friday, MAY 15
PILLAR DEADLINE
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 16

Sunday, MAY 17
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Monday, MAY 18

Tuesday, MAY 19

Wed., MAY 20

Thurs., MAY 21

Friday, MAY 22
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 23

Sunday, MAY 24
Memorial Day Weekend
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Monday, MAY 25

Tuesday, MAY 26

Wednesday, MAY 27

Thursday, MAY 28

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30

Sunday, May 31
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MAY 3, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Sue Maier
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor
Dan Stewart, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Noah Lane
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: Nancy Stella, Matt Wolbert
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Marla Corrado, Kathleen Stewart
Clean-up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs

MAY 10, 2020 - Mother's Day

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Diane Gressley
Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Ben Davis, Carrie Coyer-Westerberg, Kim Wallis, Nora Gagliano
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Gabriella Gagliano
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comms Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters: Dave Bernard, Jon Thompson
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Heidi Spangler
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler

MAY 17, 2020

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Responder: Leroy Ford
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Kathy Smith, David Ritchey, James & Valerie Tyler
Acolyte: Arthur Cook
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Ben Tomlinson

Comms Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Julie Bernard, Linda Kriynovich
Snacks: Beth Rehling, Diane Gressley
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel

MAY 24, 2020 – Memorial Day Weekend

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Responder: Janet Renovetz
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard, Caroline Chandler, Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte: Cameron Ward
Peace Candle: Evelyn Kucmins
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Courtnei Began
C.E. Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: Marge Culver, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Joy Garapic, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Pat Rehm
Clean-Up: Peg & Jim Duffy

MAY 31, 2020

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Responder: Janet Renovetz
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Jan Renovetz, Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Adam Lane
Peace Candle: Dorothy Cook
Sound: David Pastor
Comms Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Pat Rehm
Counters: Carole Snider, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Marge Culver, Miriam Rosewicz
Clean-Up: David & Kathy Pastor

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

