

The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

OCTOBER 2020



***To Be Loving, Serving, and Accepting
Of All People
with God's Life-Changing Power and Grace***

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Lauren F. Winner (in Still: Notes On A Mid-Faith Crisis) quotes ethicist Samuel Wells, who says that some stories feature heroes, and some stories feature saints, and the difference between them matters. "Stories told with heroes at the center of them are told to laud the virtues of the heroes – for if the hero failed, all would be lost. By contrast, a saint can fail in a way that the hero can't, because the failure of the saint reveals the forgiveness and the new possibilities made in God, and the saint is just a small character in a story that's always fundamentally about God."

What kind of story are we telling with our lives? Are we trying to be heroes whose virtues are going to be praised, upon whom everything depends? Or will we try to be saints, leaving the center of the story to God, where our successes win God's praise, and even our failures can be redeemed?

It's sometimes not easy to say, is it? It's tempting to be the hero. After all, who wouldn't want to be the center of their own story? Who wouldn't want to feel like it all depended on them, that their success was critical? That's only human; it just feels right a lot of the time. And yet it means there's a lot of pressure on us not to mess up, and messing up is human, too. If the hero fails, that's it. It's over. "The End" – we've written a tragedy.

But the saint, ah the saint. Not so tempting to decenter ourselves. It's just not the way we were taught to think about ourselves in our society. Looking Out For Number One is easier if it's clear that we're number one. But if God is number one, that's different. That's harder. But the saint has a crucial advantage: if the saint fails, and falls, the story is far from over. In the saint's story, there's always resurrection, which comes from the Latin word "re-surgere," which means, literally, to get back up on your feet again! Face plant and it seems like The End – but it's not, we get lifted back up on our feet. We've written a comedy, which is just like a tragedy, at least according to the ancients, in that both are often filled with pain and suffering. But the difference is that, instead of ending in sadness, it ends in an unexpected joy, and happiness.

What sort of story are you telling with your life? Are you trying to be a hero or a saint? It can make all the difference.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Attention All BUCC Kids: We've created something special for the little ones! If you're able to "Zoom In" 1/2 hour before the service starts (9:30 am), you will find out what Ms. Mindy has in store for you! Your keys to Ms. Mindy's Zoom Room are as follows:

- Join Zoom Meeting by clicking:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85160782709?pwd=TEY5aHI4QktTNlpiQWpyd04yUGo3QT09>
Passcode: Mindy
OR
- Dial by phone:
+1-929-205-6099

Bible Study via Zoom?: We are checking in to see who would be interested in a virtual Adult Bible Study while the church building remains closed (or even after reopening)! Please weigh in with your responses here: <https://rb.gy/ywjarw> (by typing this web address in the top bar of your internet browser, you will be taken to a response form that will automatically send your answers to Kate.) If you have any questions, please reach out to CE Chair Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

OCWM

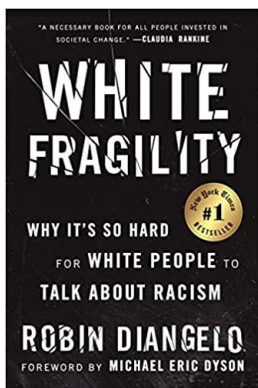
Special Offering: Neighbors In Need (NIN) is one of the UCC's special mission offerings. It supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry. The remaining two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries, to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. The grants are used to fund projects from direct service,

OCWM (continued)

to community organizing, and advocacy to address systemic injustice. We hope you can help support this important cause by making an offering anytime during the month of October. Please indicate that your offering is for NIN – many thanks from Our Church's Wider Mission!

Hunger Meal: The next hunger meal is scheduled for Sunday, **November 1st**, at Iglesia Emmanuel. Look for more details as the time comes closer. Thank you to all those who have been supporting BUCC's efforts to provide nourishment for those who are food challenged, especially in this time of the coronavirus epidemic

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OCWM



Social Justice Book Club: OCWM and Christian Education (CE) are co-sponsoring a Social Justice Book Club! Our first title is “White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism” by Robin DiAngelo. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00. Until such a time that we can meet in the parking lot, we will meet on Zoom (same account as our Sunday service). If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

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>

Or you can go to our upcoming services page:

<https://brecksvilleucc.org/services/upcoming-and-past-services/> and

*Join us
with Zoom*

press the button.

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. It looks like this:



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  button, then you get a

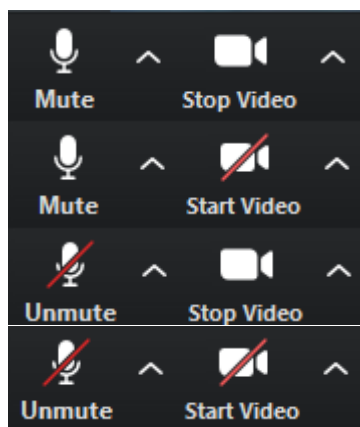
screen that asks you for the Meeting ID. Enter: **478 070 5901**.

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.

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 icons show you the current status. The words underneath say 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 clicking on



and

To leave the meeting entirely, click

Leave Meeting

or just exit the app.

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

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)



PFLAG – “Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays” is a national organization that has been in the Cleveland area for 35 years. A Monthly Support Group Meeting is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. This group provides support and education to family and friends of people coming out as Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. **For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415**

NOTES AND ASIDES

BUCC MASKS - If you would like your very own “Still Speaking” mask, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498, or email at keightykay@gmail.com and she will mail or deliver (contact-free) one to you! Suggested donation \$10 (proceeds go toward the BUCC general fund).

NOTES AND ASIDES (continued)

STILL SPEAKING EVENTS - As Cuyahoga County has moved to an “orange” level, we are happy to schedule our next “Still Speaking” event on the grounds of BUCC! Please join us on September 29th at 9:30 am - this is a chance for members and guests to safely share time together. Pastor Allan will facilitate the discussion for all of us as a congregation.

All are welcome to join us and follow the guidelines below for a safe but enjoyable event:

- Masks are required for participation.
- Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket for seating.
- You may bring a beverage or snack, but please no sharing with other households.
- Restrooms will not be available and the BUCC building will be closed.
- Please enjoy each other’s company but remain 6 feet apart.
- Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

LITTLE FREE ANTIRACISM LIBRARY- Brecksville’s very own Anti-racism Little Free Library is complete! We are so grateful that Gina Thomas reached out to us to be a site, and for giving the BUCC this opportunity to encourage the community to read books about anti-racism. Thank you to all who attended the dedication on September 26th – Gina’s speech was described as “delightful”, and Pastor Allan was informative and inspiring. It was a warm autumn day, with children playing, the sun shining and a sense of peace and well-being within the crowd of approximately 30 people. If you wish to donate books, the wish list can be found on amazon.com - you can either search the wish list for “Anti-racist Free Little Library of Brecksville”, or access it through this link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B50O1N?ref_=wl_share

Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have, so feel free to contact her at ginamthomas@gmail.com.



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

October 8:	Michelle Namitka
October 9:	Ashley Smith
October 15:	Indiria Bigelow
October 16:	Heather Hunt
October 21:	Joy Garapic
October 24:	Betsey Wilson
October 26:	Leroy Ford
October 30:	Jesse Wade

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

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2020

Thur., OCT. 1

7pm Book Club

Fri., OCT. 2

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCT. 3

Sunday, OCT. 4

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., OCT. 5

Tue., OCT. 6

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour
7pm CE

Wed., OCT. 7

6:30pm SCR
7:30pm Spiritual Life

Thur., OCT. 8

7pm Book Club

Fri., OCT. 9

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCT. 10

Sunday, OCT. 11

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., OCT. 12

7pm Stewardship

Tue., OCT. 13

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour
Service

Wed., OCT. 14

7:15pm Council

Thur., OCT. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

7pm Book Club

Fri., OCT. 16

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCT. 17

Sunday, OCT. 18

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., OCT. 19

Tue., OCT. 20

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Weds., OCT. 21

Thur., OCT. 22

Fri., OCT. 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCT. 24

Sunday, OCT. 25

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10 am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., OCT. 26

Tue., OCT. 27

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Wed., OCT. 28

Thur., OCT. 29

Fri., OCT. 30

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCT. 31

Halloween

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Oct. 4, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Diane Gressley
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris

Oct. 11, 2020

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Responder: Julie Bernard
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris

Oct. 18, 2020

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Responder: Jill Zedan
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris

Oct. 25, 2020

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Responder: Kathy Smith
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

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FIRST CLASS

