



THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2022



TO BE LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
OF ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Top of the Stairs

Odd, the things you remember. It had been just a few minutes since I'd gotten the news that my brother was murdered by an intruder with a gun. We were going to the coroner to see his dead body for the first time. I went upstairs to change my shirt. I paused at the top of the stairs and thought, "This isn't at all like murder on TV. No suspense, no intrigue. Murder in real life is just – sadness - that's all, a heavy, deep sadness right in your core." That was my "top of the stairs" moment.

It seems to me, we all just had a "top of the stairs" moment. Twenty-one innocent kids and teachers were killed at Uvalde, Texas. Thirteen were shot in a racially motivated attack in Buffalo, New York. The pure sadness of so many innocents gunned down led us as a nation to communally experience the dull ache of what gun violence is really like. We grieve. We felt it in the core of our being.

What, then, do we do? How do we compassionately respond as responsible citizens and people of faith?

The National Officers of the United Church of Christ offered a poignant prayer after the Uvalde and Buffalo mass shootings, pleading "turn anguish to action; our rage to restoration; our hatred to love; our grief to hope." They encouraged more than mere thoughts and prayers.

On Saturday, June 11, some of you joined me on the steps of Cleveland City Hall in a march to end gun violence. This was one of hundreds of marches around the country. Precisely two weeks later, Saturday June 25, President Biden signed into law the first federal gun safety bill in decades. In the two weeks between those two Saturdays, the U.S. endured another 31 mass shootings.

Anthony B. Robinson, in the UCC StillSpeaking Devotional writes: "*The real world is not like a B movie, divided clear as day between the good guys and the bad guys. Rather, the world is divided between the people who know their own sinfulness and potential for violence and who because of this treat guns with great respect and severe limits; and people who imagine that because they are good guys it's okay - even imperative - that they are armed to the teeth.*"

(continued)

Pastor's Ponderings..... (continued)

I believe the church is called to bring Jesus's spirit of peace to the conversation. Lest we forget, Jesus, too, was a victim of violence and injustice. This would be a perfect time to ask, "What would Jesus do?"

I believe that Jesus came to bring us peace, a peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27). I believe that Jesus challenges us to lay down our arms, "Put your sword away; those who live by the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52) If Peter had pulled out a gun, no doubt Jesus would have said, "Put your gun away. Those who live by guns die by guns."

I believe that high velocity firearms such as the AR-15 can and should be banned. Have you seen what such bullets do to a person? I have. These are outrageously destructive weapons which, like bazookas, just don't belong in our neighborhood. Machine guns were used in the 1929 St. Valentine's Day massacre. That resulted in a federal ban on machine guns that remains in effect. Not coincidentally, we haven't seen another machine gun mass shooting since.

I believe we need an honest conversation about violence as entertainment, about the products that make murder a matter of fun and games.

Because, when you stand at the top of the stairs, when it's real, it is anything but that. What would Jesus do?

-- Peace and blessing, Pastor John

Meet the Staff

Job Title – Office Manager

Duties: I answer the phone, distribute the mail, and prepare the Sunday bulletin, the *Pillar*, the Advent book and the Annual Report. I provide administrative support to the Pastor, staff and individual ministries. I update/maintain the church database, events calendar, maintenance contracts and miscellaneous records (births, deaths, baptisms, weddings, funerals/memorials, etc.) I act as the liaison between the Facilities Ministry and our commercial and residential tenants, and for building maintenance calls and appointments. And finally, I'm responsible for any other requests made by the Pastor, Moderator, Music Leader and/or Financial Secretary

Your favorite part of your job: My coworkers – Pastor John, Dave and Joy are smart, respectful and a pleasure to work with! Also, I enjoy being the voice and face of BUCC to our tenants, contractors & the public.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? A cowboy. Herding cattle while riding a horse looked like the most fun ever and eating beans out of a can fascinated me! Clearly, I didn't have a clue.

First paying jobs: 1) Papergirl for the Youngstown *Vindicator* (from ages 9-15 years); 2) Babysitter (ages 13-20 years); 3) Greenhouse worker at my Uncle's plant store (from 15-17 years old)

Favorite music genres: Art/Experimental Rock, Classical, Blues, Rap, Indie/Alternative.

Favorite movies: Babette's Feast, Sense & Sensibility, Knives Out

Favorite book: I simply cannot choose ONE favorite! David Copperfield, Favorite authors are Austin, Dickens, Vonnegut, Gladwell, Barberly, Tartt & Bachman.

Something we don't know about you: I have a Master's Degree in Education.

Your favorite way to spend your free time / Hobbies: Live music, cooking, movies, hiking, time with friends & family.

What three items would you take with you to a deserted island: A solar-powered water distiller, a hatchet, and a solar-powered satellite phone (to call the rescue authorities ☺).



***FROM THE MINISTRIES
OF BUCC***

FACILITIES

Our long-time tenant in Arlington Unit B, Monica German, has requested a window replacement on the west side of the house. Currently, the window is stationary and she would like one that opens for ventilation. We have contracted with Window World to replace the window with one that opens. The cost will be \$1040 and Monica will pay half. The window should be installed by the end of July.



The sink and faucets in the flower room are scheduled to be replaced in several weeks. The cost is yet to be determined.

We are still waiting for estimates to repair the pillars at the rear entrance.



STAFF/CONGREGATION RELATIONS

NURSERY UPDATE – Due to the two-year closing of the Nursery for COVID, it needed a good cleaning. Betsey Wilson, Bridget Sproul and Evie Novak cleaned and reorganized the nursery prior to Easter Sunday. For several weeks, beginning on Easter Sunday, the Staff Congregation Relations Ministry arranged for the staffing of the nursery with volunteers to assess whether there might be a need to hire a permanent nursery attendant. As we have not had any children coming to the nursery since Easter Sunday, Council has decided to staff it on an as needed basis for the time being.

If you know in advance that you will be bringing nursery age children (ages 0-3), or a guest with children, to church and would like to drop them off in the nursery, please contact the church office (440-526-4364) or Evie Novak, so that we may arrange for a volunteer attendant to be available. If you are unable to provide notice, please check with our Head Usher on the day of the service you are attending, and they will enlist a volunteer if one is available.



STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A BIG “Thank You” to Carol Miller and Pat Rehm, for all of their efforts with the Butterfly Program for Pentecost! It took lots of work and was a beautiful success!!

Stewardship of the Self Care: We are looking for church members or friends of the church who are willing to teach one or more sessions on self-care. If you can teach chair yoga or do Reiki, can lead meditation or talk about healthful eating, or maybe guide us through journaling, then you are requested to contact Bridget Sproul at (216)375-8517 or email at sproulbridget@yahoo.com. We'll schedule some times for these activities at church. We could meet in Pilgrim Hall, the Parlor, the Sanctuary, or even outside. It would be great to have sessions over Zoom, too. Let's get things planned to take place during the months of August and September. We hope to help everyone feel better with some much-needed self-care! Thank you!



Notes:

Thanks so much to Fred Pedersen for sharing his strawberry jam recipe with us at the Strawberry Social. If you had a chance to taste it, you probably want to make it now - it was so good! Fred said to use this recipe instead of the one on the pectin jar (the one on the pectin jar separates and isn't as good) - it works great!



4 cups of crushed strawberries
6 Tablespoons no-cook Ball Freezer pectin.
2 cups of granulated sugar

Mix sugar and pectin together thoroughly. Pour the crushed strawberries into the pectin-sugar mix then stir for 3 minutes. Ladle into jars, leaving 1/2 inch to one inch for expansion upon freezing, and put lids on.

After 30 minutes the jam is ready to freeze, put in the refrigerator or eat.



It is with sadness that we report the passings of long-time member Anna Mary Fisher, and retired pastor Edie O'Donnell – please pray for their friends and families.



The family of Ada and Howard Carter, former long-time members of BUCC, would like to announce a memorial service for Nancy Carter Trantum and her husband, Tom. Family and friends will be celebrating their lives in the sanctuary on Sunday, August 7th, at 1:00 pm, followed by a small reception in Pilgrim Hall. Any members who have had a connection with the Carters are welcome to join the family in remembering Nancy and Tom.



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

Joe	Began	July 02
Pat	Rehm	July 04
Allison	Colbert	July 10
Lois	Lorenzo	
Doug	Wrights	July 11
Ryan	Stewart	July 12
Evie	Novak	July 14
Dorie	Gabor	July 15
Rose	Kaval	July 19
Joshua	Anderson	July 21
Nora	Gagliano	
Mira	Corrado	July 22
Cindy	Burton	July 25
Carol	Van Duyne	July 26
Anne	Melfo	July 27

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



CALENDAR

JULY 2022

Fri., JULY 1 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Mon., JULY 11	Fri., JULY 22 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Sat., JULY 2	Tue., JULY 12 8:15am "Holy Grounds" (Brecksville Panera)	Sat., JULY 23
Sunday, JULY 3 10am Worship Service	Wed., JULY 13	Sunday, JULY 24 10am Worship Service
Mon., JULY 4 *OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY*	Thu., JULY 14	Mon., JULY 25
Tue., JULY 5 8:15am "Holy Grounds" (Brecksville Panera)	Fri., JULY 15 *PILLAR DEADLINE* *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tue., JULY 26 8:15am "Holy Grounds" (Brecksville Panera)
Wed., JULY 6	Sat., JULY 16	Wed., JULY 27
Thu., JULY 7	Sunday, JULY 17 10am Worship Service	Thu., JULY 28
Fri., JULY 8 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Mon., JULY 18	Fri., JULY 29 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Sat., JULY 9	Tue., JULY 19 8:15am "Holy Grounds" (Brecksville Panera)	Sat., JULY 30
Sunday, JULY 10 10am Worship Service	Wed., JULY 20	Sunday, JULY 31 10am Worship Service
	Thu., JULY 21	



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JULY 3, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Setup/Serve: Allison Colbert
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD

JULY 17, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Setup/Serve: Bridget Sproul
TBD
Cleanup: Bridget Sproul
TBD

JULY 10, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Tia Began
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD

JULY 24, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Dave Bernard
Carole Snider
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Carole Snider
Setup/Serve: Cliff Stenzel
Sue Stenzel
Sue Stenzel
TBD

JULY 31, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel

Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Setup/Serve: Carole Snider
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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Office Hours: (Mon. – Thu.)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Deadline for copy: The fifteenth day of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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