



THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2022

YOU HAVE ENLARGED
THE NATION
AND INCREASED THEIR JOY;



Melrose Apple, photo by ATM, 2016

THEY REJOICE BEFORE YOU
AS PEOPLE REJOICE
AT THE HARVEST

~ ISAIAH 9:3

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

RALLY DAY

In the olden days, New England Congregational churches like ours tended to coast through the summer. Summer was time to tend the farm, tend the crops and work through those longer daylight hours. When September came, it was time to ring the bell, get back to school and back to church.

One book on How to Conduct a Sunday School (1905) wrote about a newfangled idea called "Rally Day": *"This festival is rapidly growing in favor. It usually comes at the end of the summer break-up, and is used as a means of rallying the forces again for the work of fall and winter. When a general is preparing for a battle he is said to rally his forces. When a sick person begins to recover it is said of him that he is rallying. ... All of these phrases may be applied to the Sunday-school work; we are rallying our forces for the great campaign of the fall and winter..."*

Rally Day has evolved over the 206-year history of Brecksville UCC. But the purpose remains a good one. It reminds us to rally our congregation and get moving as we kick-off Sunday School, choir, and our other church programs.

This year, Rally Day takes on special significance. When COVID-19 suddenly shut us down many church activities, groups, meetings, and gatherings went dormant. It has been exciting to see things coming back to life in a post-COVID renaissance. But we're still recovering.

The Stewardship/Leadership Development Ministry recently met to discuss this. Here is a quote from the minutes of our last meeting: *"Many ministries have become dormant or are hardly functioning. The Old Guard is tired. Newer members or members who have never participated need to be invited to get involved... We need a plan to get people out of the pews or out from behind their computer screens and participating in ministries. Please help!"*

(continued)

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

Are you currently serving in one of our church ministries? If not, consider how you might be able to contribute. If we want an active congregation, we need active congregants! On Rally Day we will review various ministries of the church. Consider getting engaged in new ways.

Stewardship means caring for that which is not our own. This congregation was handed on to us by our forebears. Let us rally now that those who come after us will find BUCC vibrant, strong, and alive. How will future generations find BUCC? Changed? Yes. Reborn? Likely. Well cared for? That depends on all of us to be good stewards. The church, like the Earth is not our possession. We merely borrow it from our descendants.

Rally Day 2022 is Sunday, September 11th. It's not just about starting Sunday School anymore. Your church needs you and you need the church. It's time to rally! Call the team and get in the game! Ring the bell and sound the trumpet! Wake the resting, rub your eyes and stretch! This is our rallying cry. How will we respond?

-- Peace and blessings, Pastor John

Meet the Staff – Dave Debick

Job title: Music Director

Duties: I direct the adult choir, which rehearses every Thursday evening and Sunday morning. I prepare a Christmas Cantata and music for Holy Week services. I direct the children's Joyful Noise Choir, and work with the kids to present a song every few weeks during a service. In addition, I utilize instrumentalists (including percussion) on a fairly regular basis, and coordinate BUCC's free concert series – including marketing and the reception afterwards. Finally, I choose and practice the music for Sunday services, on organ, piano, etc. - and I'm ALWAYS recruiting new participants!

Your favorite part of the job: Interacting with all of our dedicated singers and instrumentalists, making them feel appreciated and respected, and always trying to make music at BUCC a positive experience for musicians and listeners too.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? I enjoyed musical theater a lot while growing up and hoped to do that professionally someday. God had other plans for me!

First paying jobs: Playing Catholic masses in grade school and high school; working at Cedar Point one summer as a saloon pianist in Frontiertown.

Favorite music genres: Pop, Broadway, jazz, classical, folk, rock - anything that's done well actually!

Favorite movies: On the Waterfront, West Side Story, Citizen Kane

Favorite book: Bambi

Something we don't know about you: I love sitting beside Lake Erie at Edgewater Park on a partly cloudy, breezy day and feeling the blowing wind and looking at downtown Cleveland across the bay.

Favorite way to spend your free time / Hobbies: Watching movies on Turner Classic Movies.

Three items you'd take to a deserted island: Plenty of fresh water; plenty of nonperishable foods; and Dostoevsky's book ***The Brothers Karamazov***. Never finished it!



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

Window World installed the window replacement in Unit B of the Arlington property on August 1st – the cost was \$1040, and the tenant has paid for half of it. Also, a water leak in this same unit's sink/fixture was repaired. New fixture and shut-off valves were installed, and the total cost is not yet available.

The parking lot has been repaired, coated and stripped, at a cost of \$12,100.

The new sink and faucet for the flower room have been replaced at a cost of \$1000.

Pastor John and Cliff Cribbs installed a pully system for raising the banners on the front of church.

The front doors of the church are in need of painting. Will seek a volunteer for this project.

The gutters on the front and rear of the educational wing are in need of cleaning. Will seek for bids for this project.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

AUTUMN 2022 MUSIC MINISTRY - It's time to rev up our music ministry again here at BUCC! If you enjoy singing in a group or playing an instrument, here are some opportunities for you to share your musical talent with our wonderfully affirming congregation:

(PLEASE NOTE: All practices begin on Thursday, September 8th.)

- **Adult Choir** – Practice starts at 7:00 pm. This is an excellent form of musical/spiritual preparation for Sunday services. Rehearsals last until 8:15(-ish).
- **Joyful Noise** – Practice starts at 5:30 pm. Since many of our children are involved in after-school activities, recordings of the songs will be sent via email or text, to parents of kids ranging from K-5th grade. We'll still practice on Thursdays for those who can attend, but Dave will also offer practice during Sunday coffee hour. We're hoping to get more kids involved this way!
- **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble** – Practice runs from 4:30-5:00 pm. Dave will teach both dulcimer and soprano recorder to anyone interested in learning how to play. We play at services approximately every 6 weeks.
- **Percussion Group** - This group rehearses on an as-needed basis, usually Sunday morning before service.
- **Instrumentalists** - If you want to play an instrument during the service, please let Dave know!

Please consider participating in one of these groups this fall. It's fun, relaxing, and spiritually rewarding. Contact Dave D. with any questions.

ADVENT GLIMMERS - It IS just September, but I suspect you see "Glimmers of God" all year long, not only in November. We will be moving up the BUCC Advent Book submission date this year to OCTOBER 31. Keep an eye out for the list of scriptures/dates in the upper commons and/or Fellowship Hall. Please look around, be aware of God's wonder, and jot down your thoughts. Compose your devotion and submit it to Anne (buccoffice23@gmail.com) as soon as the moment strikes. We look forward to reading your devotion!

Compassion Fatigue

By: David Ritchey

Compassion defies definition. The thesaurus describes compassion as empathy, concern and care. But even with this help, compassion is difficult to define.

Fatigue, on the other hand, is easily defined - "I'm tired." In 2003, when I was a Fulbright Scholar in Bucharest, Romania, I first heard the words "compassion" and "fatigue" linked together. My ears perked up because I was suffering from compassion fatigue at that time. Now, I realize that I still wrestle with it. I feel I'm fresh out of compassion - empathy, concern and care. I'm fatigued at feeling emotionally drained. If I had an ounce of control, I would take the blame for my fatigue and call it by its correct name - self-pity. But, my self-pity feeds on something fueled by local people who need my compassion.

In Bucharest, a poor man with one leg sat on a bench on one of the main streets. Despite his loss, he had a keen sense of humor. He smiled and laughed when he saw someone he knew. When I went to offer coins and "best wishes," I was stopped by a woman holding something wrapped in a blanket – a baby? Probably just a decoy to fool a gullible American. She insisted she deserved my compassion more than the man, and my anger erupted in rage. Was this compassion fatigue? Neither person got a coin from me that day. Their "compassion competition" caused me much suffering about my anger at two people who clearly both needed help.

When we can't help, we might look the other way and become insensitive – but this hurts us more than others.

A few days later, I again saw the one-legged man. He called to me and waved. I gave him several coins, which evoked a big laugh from him. I wished him well - language wasn't a barrier to sharing good wishes.

Despite Bucharest's crowded conditions and petty crime, I needed to maintain compassion. I fought to not let my emotions be diluted by seeing too much that was beyond my ability to help.

I work to protect myself from compassion fatigue. I need to do all that I can to not emotionally detach from the misfortune of others. I might be emotionally dead from compassion fatigue – or perhaps experiencing the "fullness of life", which includes both the joy of good times, and the pain/fatigue from having a caring heart.

Notes & Announcements:



We received the following email from Benjamin Rehling:

"Thank you to all of those who sent their congratulations to me for my graduation - the church has been a big part of my life for years. Everybody works so hard to keep this church welcoming and it has paid off. I will be heading over to Kent State University to major in Aviation, in hopes of being a commercial pilot."

All love and blessings to Benjamin as he continues his journey - – you will always have a home at BUCC!



Congratulations to Kim and Tim Wallis! On August 3rd, they became brand new parents to little Liana. We've heard that all are doing well, even though Liana surprised her parents by arriving a couple weeks early. Please remember them in your prayers - and Kim & Tim, we can't wait to meet her!



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

Phyllis	Hassler	September 01
Joanne	Cook	September 03
Betty	Kaul	September 07
Gabriella	Gagliano	September 10
Mark	Lehman	September 11
Kathy	Smith	September 11
Jill	Zedan	September 12
Rebecca	Anderson	September 14
Jane	Cribbs	September 15
Natalie	Corrado	September 17
Holden	Esser	September 17
Valerie	Tyler	September 17
Nancy	Stella	September 22
Carrie	Coyer-Westerberg	September 23
Jerry	Spangler	September 23
Matt	Wolbert	September 23
David	Debick	September 26

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



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2022

Thu., SEPTEMBER 1

Fri., SEPTEMBER 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 3

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 4
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 5
~ LABOR DAY ~
OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., SEPTEMBER 6
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., SEPTEMBER 7

Thu., SEPTEMBER 8
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPTEMBER 9

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 10
❤️ Allison & Gayle ❤️

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 11

10am Worship Service
RALLY DAY

Mon., SEPTEMBER 12

Tue., SEPTEMBER 13
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., SEPTEMBER 14

Thu., SEPTEMBER 15
PILLAR DEADLINE
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPTEMBER 16

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 17

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 18
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 19

Tue., SEPTEMBER 20

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., SEPTEMBER 21
10am Worship Service

Thu., SEPTEMBER 22
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPTEMBER 23
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 24

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 25
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 26

Tue., SEPTEMBER 27
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., SEPTEMBER 28
10am Worship Service

Thu., SEPTEMBER 29
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPTEMBER 30
OFFICE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Allison Colbert
 Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Sue Stenzel
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel
 Cliff Stenzel
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel
 TBD

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 Dave Bernard
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Allison Colbert
 Gayle Jackson
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
 TBD
Cleanup: TBD
 TBD

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: Jon Thompson
Setup/Serve: TBD
 TBD
Cleanup: TBD
 TBD

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
 TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
 Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
 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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