



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2023

Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17



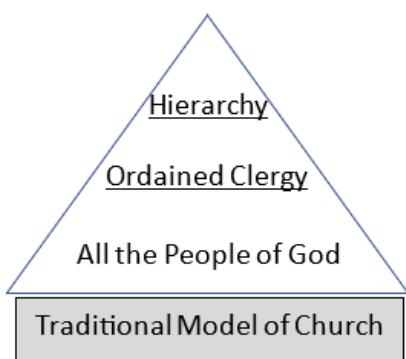
TO BE LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
OF ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

Pastor's Ponderings.....

I have a few running gags about ministry. One of them goes like this: family wants to schedule some event on Sunday. I'll say "I keep asking the church for Sundays off, but they don't listen to me." Here's another: somebody asks me about something going on at BUCC, but I don't know the answer. I'll joke, "Hey, I just work here." Yeah, sorry. "Dad jokes" are about the best I've got these days.

Both punch lines are based on the same premise: The UCC has a different ecclesiology than most churches. That word comes from the Greek, *ecclesia*, meaning *church*. So, ecclesiology is the field of theology that studies who we are as a church. What's our leadership structure? How does the church experience and affirm God's still speaking voice. Who decides? In the UCC, it's the congregation, not the pastor.

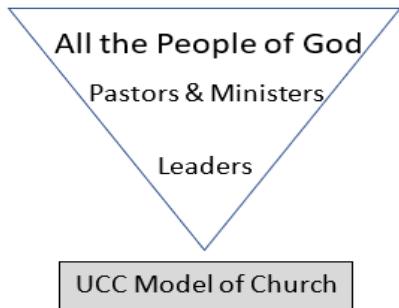
These two triangles illustrate, in a simplified way, the difference between the traditional model of church many of us grew up with, and the UCC ecclesiology. Traditionally, the pastor made the decisions; a good pastor would respectfully consult the congregation. But in the UCC, the congregation makes the decisions; a good congregation respectfully consults the pastor.



In the traditional model, a small hierarchy decides what the people do and believe. Depending on the denomination, this hierarchy likely includes bishops, perhaps even popes, cardinals, archbishops etc. They write official declarations, doctrines and dogmas. Clergy make a sacred pledge of obedience to the hierarchy and pass their doctrines on to the people. If you don't agree, you might hear, "hey, love it or leave it."

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

The UCC model functions differently. *The people are the church.* While I've heard other church denominations say that, in the UCC, it is a reality that we live in our day-to-day practice. That means pastors need to listen more than we talk. It means I don't get a vote on church council. Governance of the congregation comes from the members, not their pastor.



I love this ecclesiology because it is more authentic. For *God's spirit moves among all of God's people.* We are at our best when we listen attentively and empathetically to one another. It also means that I can focus my attention where it belongs - on the pastoral care of the people, not administrative minutia.

A hundred years ago, engineers figured a big arena needed a big loudspeaker to get the message out. But the larger the arena, the more of an echo chamber it became; loud, but unintelligible. Newer spaces now use many small speakers instead of a few big ones. While the volume is the same, the message is heard more clearly. In the UCC, the clarity of our church's voice comes from many small speakers, not a few loud ones.

This summer I am driving to Indianapolis for the General Synod of the UCC. I'm honored to be a delegate representing you and the Living Water Association at the synod. Delegates will vote on resolutions and officers. These will guide the whole UCC denomination moving forward. But remember the inverted pyramid. Your voice matters. Please visit GeneralSynod.org/proposed-resolutions where you can see the proposed resolutions. Let me know your thoughts and I'll carry them with me to the General Synod.

The people are the church. I care about you; I care about your ideas, inspirations and opinions. I firmly believe that church is stronger when we respect the ability of each person to hear and respond to the gentle prodding of the Spirit, who speaks in and through the spirit of each member of the church, the body of Christ.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

- Funds have been collected for the rear signage and thank you letters sent to contributors. The lettering has been installed.
- A New Member bulletin board has been installed.
- A letter was sent to Monica German informing her that the rent would be \$750 per month beginning in June.
- The carpeting in the greeting area was cleaned on Tuesday, May 23 (\$200.00).
- Banner Room: all old computer equipment has been moved to the stage in Pilgrim Hall. Jim Duffy will see that is donated. Old filing cabinets have moved to the hallway, Pastor John will offer them online or anyone in the congregation is welcome to them.
- House cleaning tour will be scheduled soon with Sam, and anyone interested is welcome. Looking to schedule a Saturday morning.
- Our electric supplier has been changed to Dynergy, which has the lowest rate available at this time.

FINANCE

Support for Edna House continues to arrive in the mail. A check will be mailed for over \$1,900. The mission of Edna House 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. It is independent of

government funding, and so it relies on support from communities such as ours. Thanks for your generous support!

STATEMENT OF CASH AVAILABLE AS OF APRIL 30th – In an effort to keep our congregation informed, the Finance Ministry is providing a quick overview of our finances with an estimation of time before depletion of our reserves. We thank everyone who currently contributes and, as our church continues to grow, we hope to start reversing this trend of expenses exceeding income.

	04/30/23	04/30/22
Sources of Cash		
General & Rental Fund	(16,642)	62,759
Market Value of Spendable	91,032	92,105
Endowment		
Spendable Restricted Funds	<u>267,249</u>	<u>149,242</u>
Total Available	341,639	304,106
Uses of Cash:		
Short Term Liabilities	<u>13,525</u>	<u>10,948</u>
Total Needed	13,525	10,948
Net Cash Available	328,114	293,158
Budgeted Deficit	(69,897)	
Available Cash / Deficit (years)	4.7	
Actual Deficit		(60,043)
Available Cash / Deficit (years)		4.9

OCWM

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH - On Sunday, June 4th, we will collect a special offering for Our Church's Wider Mission. Specifically, the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ, to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant

new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY – Did you know that the UCC has a *Justice and Peace Action Network*? Check out their website by clicking here: [UCC Justice and Peace Action Network](https://p2a.co/o0Ur54O), or by typing in this website address: <https://p2a.co/o0Ur54O>. Listed there are over 30 issues on which you can take immediate action by sending emails to your Congressional Representatives and by sharing information on social media. Find an issue or issues you are passionate about and get started!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

“COME TO THE TABLE OF GRACE”: Return to Twice-Monthly Communion

New members of Brecksville United Church of Christ find our celebration of Communion each month to be especially meaningful. When Pastor John reminds us all that everyone is invited to the table, he is calling us back to our roots, to those hillside scenes in the Gospels when Jesus fed the hungry crowds who came to hear Good News. Everyone is welcome, everyone is fed.

In the past, pre-Covid, it was BUCC’s practice to celebrate Communion twice a month. The Spiritual Life Committee is happy to share the good news that we will return to that twice-monthly celebration, beginning in June. Our thanks to Gayle Colbert for so generously agreeing to prepare Communion for us, with the help of Allison Colbert, now twice as often.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP - As is tradition here at BUCC, we will pare down coffee hour in June, July, and August. It’s important to give our regular volunteers a break during the busy summer months. Coffee and tea will be available weekly for those who want to gather, so please check Breeze and/or reply to the weekly email to offer to SET-UP. If you have a burning desire to bake or you happen to have a snack, feel free to bring it; we certainly won’t allow offerings to go to waste! We just ask that food contributions be self-serve for minimum clean up. If you bring something, please set it up and take it with you at the end of coffee hour. Thank you!

OPEN & AFFIRMING – BUCC will be participating in the **Cleveland Pride March**, on Saturday, June 3rd, in downtown Cleveland! We will be meeting at 10am at Public Square (they will tell us where to line up when we get there, or have “BUCC” on a poster indicating our spot in line) and the march is from 11-11:30am (approximately a 20 minute walk to Malls B & C). We also have a quarter page ad in the Pride Guide, that will be given out that day to all participants so EVERYONE will know how great BUCC is! It’s a “march only” – people can march, but NO cars, floats or pets allowed. Just bring a hand flag to carry (if you choose) or a friend and it will be a great time! Festival/vendors will be at Malls B & C from 11am – 6pm and events/stars TBD.

More information is available at: <https://lgbtcleveland.org/pride/>
Come downtown and ENJOY!!

NURSERY – We’re happy to announce that we have a new Nursery Attendant for the summer! Any child age 3 years or younger has a safe place to play and socialize, while their grown-ups attend the service. The position has been filled by Michelina “Mickey” Fawcett, who has extensive experience watching children of all ages, in addition to being a member since she was 6 years old. Please see Miss Mindy and/or Mickey if you’d like to see the space or have any questions.

STEWARSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CATERPILLARS - Get ready to adopt caterpillars in June, because Katzfly is returning with caterpillar friends in need of new homes. If you have a netted container from last year, you can pick up your caterpillars in Pilgrim Hall after the services on June 11 and 18 (and perhaps even after that). If you need a netted container, we will have them. Donations to BUCC are accepted and the world will be a better place with more Painted Lady butterflies.

LET’S GET GROWING!! The Stewardship Ministry invites those of you who plant a garden of vegetables, fruits, or flowers to plant some extra this spring and summer. If you’re already doing all the work, just do a little more to help out BUCC. Whenever your harvest comes in, we will make

a table available on Sundays after church to sell whatever you bring in. All of the funds will go to the General Fund to help bring down the deficit.

Announcements:

SUMMER MEDITATION NEWS - Carol will not be leading meditation during the month of June. July gatherings will resume as usual, on Wednesdays at 11 am, but there will be no meditation gathering on Wednesday, July 26th. The group may still meet to practice informally on these dates. Check with Sherrill Witt for details.



BBH PRIDE FEST '23 is the first annual event to recognize Pride Month in the communities of Brecksville and Broadview Heights. It will be a fun, family-friendly community event featuring food trucks, artisan & vendor booths, ice cream, music, games & prizes, and arts & crafts for kids!

Time: Saturday, June 10 · 11:30am – 4:30pm EDT

Location: Brecksville Broadview Heights Middle School

Registration is NOT mandatory – we're just gauging participation so we get enough city resources: police, fire, emergency etc.

Details and registration are available at bbhpride.org.



FLOWERS – The following members have volunteered to provide altar flowers this month:

June 4 – Sue Stenzel
11 – Julie Bernard
18 – Janet Renovetz
25 – Anne Melfo

If you would like to dedicate flowers on a specific Sunday, please complete a "Dedication Request" form (under the narthex cork board) and return it to the office. If you have questions about this, please ask Janet Renovetz, or contact the office at 440-526-4364.



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

Bridget	Sproul	June 02
Lily	Hunt	June 04
Vincent	Kaval	June 08
Heidi	Spangler	June 10
Dot	Bailey	June 15
Giuliana	Gagliano	June 15
Marla	Corrado	June 19
Sam	Koch	June 20
Marilyn	Wrights	June 23
Chad	Sproul	June 24
Carole	Snider	June 25
Maureen	Stanley	June 26
Kimberly	Wallis	June 26
Bruce	McCain	June 27
Carli	Began	June 29
Evelyn	Seager	June 29
David	Wilson	June 29

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



CALENDAR

JUNE 2023

Thu., JUNE 1

Fri., JUNE 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JUNE 3
Cleveland Pride March

SUNDAY, JUNE 4
10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 5

Tue., JUNE 6
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JUNE 7

Thu., JUNE 8

Fri., JUNE 9
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JUNE 10

SUNDAY, JUNE 11
10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 12

Tue., JUNE 13
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JUNE 14

Thu., JUNE 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Fri., JUNE 16
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JUNE 17

SUNDAY, JUNE 18
10am Worship Service
Fathers' Day

Mon., JUNE 19
OFFICE CLOSED

JUNETEENTH

Tue., JUNE 20

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JUNE 21

Thu., JUNE 22
Fri., JUNE 23
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JUNE 24

SUNDAY, JUNE 25
10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 26

Tue., JUNE 27
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JUNE 28

Thu., JUNE 29
Fri., JUNE 30
OFFICE CLOSED



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JUNE 4, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 18, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 11, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Pat Rolfe
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 25, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

The Pillar

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