



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JULY 2023



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Last night the fireflies reminded me of something I wrote in 2013. It's one of the most magnificent lessons my kids have taught me.

FIREFLY GRACE

Grace disrupts.

At age five, my son Ian had finished all the usual negotiations for "just five more minutes" of TV. We had properly fulfilled all the bedtime rituals: the cup of warm milk, the brushing of teeth, the hugs, kisses, and tuck-ins. Ian was finally in bed. Teenaged Maya was away at a sleepover. At 8:50 p.m. it was, at last, "Katie-Time."

Katie and I longed for that relaxing hour - when the grownups finally get to watch the TV shows we want to watch; or perhaps start a conversation that we might actually finish. I was on the left end of the couch, Katie on the right with her feet propped up on my lap for a foot massage. Finally! Katie-Time!

Just as I pressed the "ON" button of the remote, I heard Ian upstairs, "Daddy! Daddy!"

I yelled, without getting off the couch, "Ian, settle down. Go to sleep."

But he persisted "Daddy! Daddy!"

I got up and went to the sink. A cup of water is the usual remedy for such encroachments on Katie-Time. I took the water upstairs, but Ian was not interested. He urgently told me, "I see fireflies!"

"That's fine," I said, "but what you really need to do now is keep quiet, lie down and go to sleep." I tucked him in, kissed his forehead, told him I love him, and went downstairs.

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

Returning to the couch, it struck me; I had missed it. That was bad parenting.

"What's wrong?" Katie asked me.

"I should have watched the fireflies," I replied.

Katie responded quickly, "Then let's go watch fireflies."

We went upstairs together and found Ian, lying sideways on his bed looking out the window in wonder.

We joined him, with Katie on the left, me on the right, and Ian in the middle. We watched with quiet delight, mesmerized by the bioluminescent miracle.

Finally, Ian spoke, "It all seems backwards." Was he referring to the broken routine? Perhaps. And I suppose it was "backwards." But grace is just that way.

We like our routines. They keep us cozy and give the illusion of control. But grace is just not that way. Grace is unmerited, unexpected, unscheduled and utterly beautiful.

Routine may be the bringer of comfort, but interruption is the porter of grace. God forbid that I cast a graven image of my routine and dismiss the sublime iconoclastic disruptions that light the darkness.





FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES



The carpeting in the rear entrance and upper commons has been cleaned and looks great. The cost was \$290.

The dishwasher in rental house on Arlington (Unit A) had to be replaced at a cost of \$624.

The women's toilet in the lower education wing is out of service. Repair estimates are being requested.



Sherrill, Cliff and Sam did a house cleaning tour. Major areas of concern are the attic and furnace room. We will be planning a Saturday work party to tackle these areas.

OCWM

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!



EDNA HOUSE – Please see the bulletin board in the lobby for a beautiful letter of gratitude for BUCC’s annual contribution. There’s a handwritten note at the bottom from Jenn Lasky, the Executive Director, that reads:

“Thank you for allowing Murphy and I to speak at your service. It was great meeting so many of you after the service.”

Jenn also left a voice mail at the office, thanking us profusely for our ongoing support.

STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Stewardship mattered to Lenore Harris. She was dedicated to Brecksville UCC, serving on most of our ministries and committees, especially the Facilities Ministry. Lenore knew every nook, corner and drain of our church building, and dedicated herself to its upkeep. We are profoundly grateful.

So, it was fitting that Lenore also left a substantial gift to the church in her will. She wanted to make sure that her church family was well cared for. On behalf of the Church Council, we honor Lenore Harris and her family. We are grateful for her life of love and service, her bright smile and gentle laughter, her generous stewardship in life and in death.

So many of you are also generous stewards of Brecksville UCC. If you would like to learn more about legacy stewardship and ways that you can provide your church in your will, please contact Pastor John or a member of the Finance ministry.

To Lenore, her family and all who generously support the works of the church, thank you.

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:



***BUCC received the following
thank you note:***

“Dearest BUCC:

We can’t tell you how much it meant to all of us that you have been here for us and so supportive--particularly after the unexpected loss of Al Klonowski. We know that he cared for all of you deeply, and always spoke so highly of his experience as a new member, being welcomed quickly and fully into the community. He cherished the opportunity to work with the pastor search ministry and took great pride in knowing he was part of securing strong leadership for BUCC.

We were all incredibly touched by the outpouring of prayers, cards, love, and especially all those who went above and beyond to make the service to remember him a beautiful one! Special thanks to Anne Melfo, Bridget Sproul, Jim & Peg Duffy, Bob & Caroline Chandler, Heidi Spangler, Tia Began, Julie Bernard, Kathy Smith, Carol Miller, and Pastor John. The whole event was a blur, so if we neglected to thank you, please forgive us. Just know that we hold you all—and everyone at BUCC—very close and with profound appreciation.

*All Our Love and Gratitude,
The Klonowski & Wolbert Families”*



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	July 10
Doug	Wrights	July 11
Ryan	Stewart	July 12
Evie	Novak	July 14
Dorothy	Gabor	July 15
Rose	Kaval	July 19
Joshua	Anderson	July 21
Nora	Gagliano	July 21
Bill	Harris	July 21
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 2023

Sat., JULY 1

SUNDAY, JULY 2

10am Worship Service

Mon., JULY 3

Tue., JULY 4

OFFICE CLOSED

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JULY 5

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., JULY 6

Fri., JULY 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JULY 8

SUNDAY, JULY 9

10am Worship Service

Mon., JULY 10

Tue., JULY 11

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

Wed., JULY 12

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., JULY 13

Fri., JULY 14

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JULY 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

SUNDAY, JULY 16

10am Worship Service

Mon., JULY 17

Tue., JULY 18

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

Wed., JULY 19

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., JULY 20

Fri., JULY 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JULY 22

SUNDAY, JULY 23

10am Worship Service

Mon., JULY 24

Tue., JULY 25

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JULY 26

Thu., JULY 27

Fri., JULY 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JULY 29

SUNDAY, JULY 30

10am Worship Service

Mon., JULY 31



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JULY 2, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: Annette Pedersen
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Setup/Serve: Kathy Ford
Cleanup: TBD

JULY 16, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Carole Snyder
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JULY 9, 2023

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JULY 23, 2023

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

JULY 30, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V: TBD
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

The Pillar

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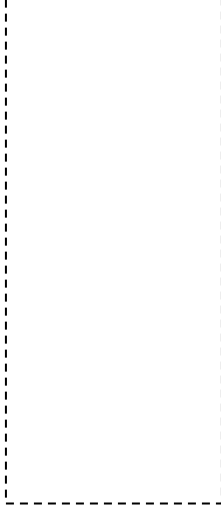
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FIRST CLASS



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