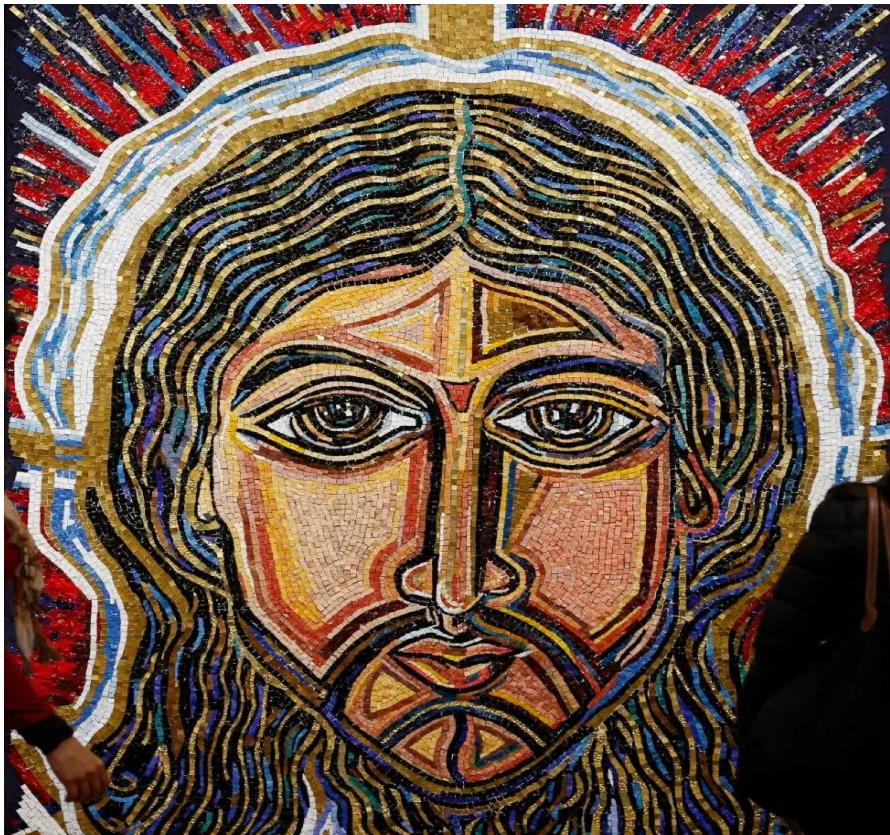




THE *Pillar* BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2023



A mosaic called "Face of Christ" appears in an exhibit, "He Became Flesh," in Florence, Italy.

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Religion and Politics

I've heard that politics and religion should not be mentioned in polite company. If that's the case, I'm about to get impolite.

To quote Rev. Jim Wallis, religion is deeply personal, but it is not private. Rather, our faith compels us to strive for justice, peace and compassion in the world around us.

It was that way for the prophets of old, like Zechariah, who said, "Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another; do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor" (7:10).

And it is that way for us. Our faith is personal, but not private.

Faith led Moses to stand before the Pharaoh and advocate for freedom. Faith led Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to stand before the crowd assembled in Washington D.C. and advocate for civil rights. Faith leads us to advocate for laws and policies that are just and consistent with the teachings of our faith too.

But there are limits. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we can endorse issues and policies. But we do not endorse individual candidates or political parties. That's not just a good idea, it's the law.

As a pastor, I abide by those limits. But as a citizen, I vote, donate, speak, march and campaign for the candidates I support. Sometimes that can look a little confusing, so I want to draw some very clear lines. When I am speaking in my position as pastor of Brecksville UCC, I abide by the limits that apply to all 501(c)(3) organizations. But when I am acting independently of this ministry, those rules do not apply.

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

Pastors and congregations CAN endorse issues; we can't endorse parties or candidates. But as a citizen, I can and will endorse parties and candidates. I'll keep those dual roles separated, and I trust that when you observe my activism you can too.

If you ever feel that I've crossed any boundaries that I've described here, please let me know. I want to get this right. And it can get complicated in ministry, a vocation in which my work and my identity are so intertwined.

Since congregations *can* endorse issues, let's talk about one. At the last church council meeting, Brecksville UCC unanimously endorsed a "NO" vote on Issue One this August 8. This is consistent with the churches of Greater Cleveland Congregations (see www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org/issues/issue-1). It is also consistent with the resolutions passed by the 34th General Synod of the United Church of Christ (see www.ucc.org/general-synod-34-highlights).

Of course, we may disagree sometimes. If we talk long enough, we're bound to discover disagreements over politics, theology, and the Kardashians. Great! It would be pretty dull over coffee if we all agreed. When we disagree, let's agree to do so with deep respect and active listening.

Above all, get out and vote! Advocate for what you believe in. Support the policies and candidates that you believe are most in-line with your core values.

As a veteran, voting is a deeply patriotic duty and privilege that I never miss. As a follower of Jesus, voting is one of the most powerful ways to put my faith into action.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FELLOWSHIP/MEMBERSHIP



Church Picnic



The annual church picnic will be held right after the worship in the park, on August 27. Pack your picnic basket with your favorite side dish-dessert to share. We will be providing hot dogs and hamburgers, table service and lemonade and/or iced tea. We are bringing back the pie baking contest, so find those great recipes and get ready for a possible prize. If you bring a cold dish, we ask that you please pack it in some ice. There are electrical outlets for crockpots.

A sign-up sheet is necessary, to determine quantities for the food and beverages that the church is providing.

See the “**SPIRITUAL LIFE**” section of this newsletter for directions, and we hope to see you all at the picnic!

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF CASH AVAILABLE AS OF JUNE 30th:

06/30/23

Sources of Cash

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| PNC Bank | 14,850 |
| US Bank | 2,866 |
| First Federal of Lakewood | <u>59,319</u> |
| | 77,036 |

Liquid Cash

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Certificate of Deposit | <u>60,642</u> |
| | 137,677 |

Cash Balance

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Spendable Endowment – Market Value | 93,027 |
| Restricted Endowment – Market Value | 66,270 |
| Stock Bequest | <u>95,213</u> |
| | 254,510 |

Equity Value

Total Financial Assets

392,188

Less:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Restricted Endowments | 66,270 |
| Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses | <u>15,563</u> |
| | 81,833 |

Net Financial Assets Available

310,354

Budgeted Deficit (Revised)

Available Cash / Deficit Years

(69,897)

4.4 Years

OCWM

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!

OCWM & SPIRITUAL LIFE



VOTE AUGUST 8! The Spiritual Life Ministry would like to encourage all BUCC members and friends to vote in the VERY important election coming up. ISSUE 1 is a critical issue for the state of Ohio, with bipartisan opposition to it. At

Spiritual Life's request and by consensus, BUCC Council is taking the rare step in endorsing the NO position on Issue 1. For detailed information on this dangerous issue, please go to cleveland.com. Information will also be made available during coffee hour following worship, for those interested in learning more. Your voice matters!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

WORSHIP IN THE PARK – We are pleased to announce that Worship in the Park has finally returned! Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 27 at 10:00 am. We will be gathering at Sagamore Hills Township Park (11550 Valley View Rd. in Sagamore Hills) for our regular church service. THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT 23 PUBLIC SQUARE. See you there!

****Directions for Worship in the Park AND the Church Picnic****

The location for both events is **11550 Valley View Road**, at the **Sagamore Hills Twp. Park**, in the **Rose Mary Snell Pavilion**.

From BUCC: Head east on Rte. 82. After crossing the bridge to Sagamore Hills, make the first left turn onto Chaffee Road. At the end of Chaffee, turn right onto Valley View Road. The park is across from the Sagamore Hills Police Station on your right (approx. 1 mile.) We're meeting at the Rose Mary Snell Pavilion, which is in the very back of the park. So once you turn right into the park, continue straight onto the gravel road until it turns left. You will pass the ball diamonds and bathrooms, and then you'll see the only pavilion in that park. There is a drop-off area at the front of the pavilion - please leave the closest parking spots for those in need.



STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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:

FROM THE MODERATOR: There will be no Council meeting in the month of August, to give all Ministry members a break and time to get ready for Rally Day, then the Stewardship drive and finally, the Holiday Season. Thank you to all who participate in the Ministries and administration of our wonderful church. Be sure to join us at our outdoor Worship Service and Picnic on Sunday, August 27th.



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

| | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| Michael | Corrado | August 02 |
| Courtni | Began | August 08 |
| Kathy | Ford | August 09 |
| Beth | Rehling | August 11 |
| Dave | Bernard | August 15 |
| George | Snider | August 15 |
| Carol | Miller | August 16 |
| Bettina | Ortiz | August 18 |

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



CALENDAR

AUGUST 2023

Tue., AUGUST 1

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Spiritual Life

Wed., AUGUST 2

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6pm SCR

Thu., AUGUST 3**Fri., AUGUST 4**
OFFICE CLOSED**Sat., AUGUST 5****SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**
10am Worship Service
11:15am OCWM**Mon., AUGUST 7**

7pm Facilities Ministry

Tue., AUGUST 8

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

Wed., AUGUST 9

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., AUGUST 10**Fri., AUGUST 11**
OFFICE CLOSED**Sat., AUGUST 12****SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**
10am Worship Service**Mon., AUGUST 14****Tue., AUGUST 15**
PILLAR DEADLINE

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Comm. & Outreach

Wed., AUGUST 16

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Stewardship

Thu., AUGUST 17**Fri., AUGUST 18**
OFFICE CLOSED**Sat., AUGUST 19****SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**
10am Worship Service**Mon., AUGUST 21****Tue., AUGUST 22**

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Membership

Wed., AUGUST 23

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., AUGUST 24**Fri., AUGUST 25**
OFFICE CLOSED**Sat., AUGUST 26******SUNDAY, AUGUST 27****
10am Worship at
Sagamore Hills
Twp. Park**Mon., AUGUST 28****Tue., AUGUST 29**
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall**Wed., AUGUST 30**

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., AUGUST 31

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

AUGUST 6, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Allison Colbert
TBD
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Setup/Serve: Carole Snider
Cleanup: Carole Snider

AUGUST 20, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Setup/Serve: Carole Snider
Cleanup: Dorie Gabor
Carole Snider

AUGUST 13, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Setup/Serve: Carole Snider
Cleanup: Carole Snider
TBD

AUGUST 27, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Jackie Cassara
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Jenn Elting
Setup/Serve: Carole Snider
Cleanup: Dorie Gabor
Carole Snider

The Pillar

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