



THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 2023



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Equinoxes and solstices are sacred moments. It's good to be mindful of the sermons Earth teaches this season. Last Saturday's equinox preached of balance, gratitude and the coming darkness.

For thousands of years, across different religions and cultures, the autumn equinox was celebrated with fires and chants, songs and dancing. The equinox marks the moment of balance between light and dark; yin and yang.

We did so much with those long summer days. Now, in the northern hemisphere, darkness dominates.

The liturgy of autumn leads me to a reflection, on a balance of light and dark, gratitude and death. Autumn is both beautiful and fearsome.

*“O sacred season of autumn, be my teacher,
for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.*

You are the season of retirement, of full barns and harvested fields.

*The cycle of growth has ceased,
and the busy work of giving life is now completed.
I sense in you no regrets: you've lived a full life.”*

– Edward Hays

The harvest leads me to melancholic gratitude. Rejoice. Give thanks. The soil - tilled last spring while still cold - has yielded its crops. The seeds - planted long ago - have borne their fruit. Now we turn with thanksgiving for the abundant blessings of a bountiful God, a glorious Sun and a life-giving Mother Earth. We have worked hard for so long, let's reflect on what it has meant. Breathe deeply now. Give thanks. You are blessed. Hear that again. You are blessed. Blessed with life and family and friends and freedom and so much more.

But autumn leads me to a reflection on death too. Darkness increases, and with it, the unseen. The “Day of the Dead,” deeply rooted in centuries of indigenous folklore melded with Christian traditions, leads to festive graveyard scenes. The circle-dancing leaves call to us. We too, shall fall. We too shall join them some day.

Pastor's Ponderings **(continued)**

Yet Old Woman Autumn carries the secret of life and blessing in her withered hand. The acorns are falling and the squirrels frantically try to bury them all. Even if they could, there is more than they could ever eat. So, the acorns smile as they release their grip, fall to the ground, and are buried.

Spring is coming. They know. They know.

Perhaps the two faces of autumn – thanksgiving and death – are both leading me to the same place. I reflect on the blessing of each moment, each relationship, each sunset, and each ability. It is a treasure, simply to be in relationship with those we love. Fall reminds me; these are not unlimited treasures to be squandered. Indeed, they are the most wonderful things I have. So, dance now, laugh now, serve now, love now.

Katie and I light the fire in the back yard. It's getting colder; it's getting darker. Soon we'll go inside. But for now, we savor these evenings of warmth and light. Autumn is a thick book of wisdom that teaches us to value each moment of this blessed time, this blessed life.

Old Woman Autumn smiles. She calls us to give thanks. She warns us – ponder your demise, you mortals. Then she winks and points to the acorn – you carry within you the seeds of Resurrection.

*"Dance with delight, O
flame of autumn fire, as
the Earth, spinning and
leaning away from the
sun, begins to cool from
the summer heat.*

*Speak to me of the
promise hidden in this
season of autumn.*

*For spring is seeded in
this season of completion,*

*just as the giant oak
exists within the acorn.*

*Autumn fire, orange and
yellow sacrament of the
sun, light up the darkness
with your dancing.*

*Your power is seeded in
the ripeness of the fruit
and grain of this
harvest season.*

*Great is God, whose
heart is the shrine
wherein lives this whole
universe; great is your
heart, my Beloved,
greater still is your
unceasing love for me.*

*May my love for you
enflame my every word of
thanksgiving to reflect the
golden beauty of autumn
that the Earth dons
once again. Amen † "*

- Edward Hays, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim: A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE

STATEMENT OF CASH AVAILABLE AS OF AUGUST 31st:

08/31/23

Sources of Cash	
PNC Bank	27,294
US Bank	3,848
First Federal of Lakewood	<u>59,592</u>
Liquid Cash	90,374
Certificate of Deposit	<u>60,642</u>
Cash Balance	151,376
Spendable Endowment – Market Value	93,086
Restricted Endowment – Market Value	66,312
Stock Bequest	<u>92,927</u>
Equity Value	252,324
Total Financial Assets	403,700
Less:	
Restricted Endowments	66,312
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	<u>11,715</u>
	<u>78,027</u>
Net Financial Assets Available	325,673
Budgeted Deficit (Revised)	(69,897)
Available Cash / Deficit Years	4.7 Years

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)

BEHOLD! - The “Neighbors in Need” special offering, which we will receive on October 1st, supports the United Church of Christ’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The remaining third supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). There are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SEASONAL CHOIR - The first rehearsal for this year's Christmas cantata is scheduled for Thursday October 5th, at 7:00 PM. The cantata, titled ***Sing Christmas***, will be performed on December 10th, during our 10 AM service. If you enjoy singing in a group setting but don't have time to commit to regular choir, please consider participating in seasonal choir! Rehearsal tracks are provided for each vocal part to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Please feel free to contact Dave Debick with any questions.

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**



Sign up at church or call Anne by Tuesday, October 17th.

SPIRITUAL LIFE (CONTINUED)

FREE CONCERT - On Sunday October 29th at 4:00 PM, BUCC will host a free concert featuring The Western Campus Chorale of Cuyahoga Community College, directed by Kira Seaton. Also performing will be the Tri-C Community Band, directed by Joshua Fadenholz. The ensembles will be playing a variety of light classical and popular music. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Make sure to reserve October 29th at 4:00 on your calendars, so you can enjoy this free musical event with us!

ADVENT - Our annual Advent Devotional is always highly anticipated. This is a booklet containing daily scripture passages and corresponding reflections, written by members of BUCC. In 300 words or less, write on pretty much whatever you wish - here are some suggestions:

- Reflection on what the scripture you chose means to you - don't worry about using the passage in its entirety. You may want to select a single thought from it and go from there.
- A Christmas memory that may hold special significance to you
- Something going on in the world and what scripture seems to say in response
- Something you may have heard or read related to the scripture passage that has special meaning for you
- Description of a special family (or church) tradition
- The whole meditation may be written as a prayer.
- Sometimes a poem or the lyrics to a special carol works well.

Conclude your passage with a one or two sentence prayer. Simply select one of the pre-printed verses/dates that will be available during Fellowship Hour and write a short reflection. To give Anne plenty of time to produce the booklet, submissions need to be in her hands by October 31st. Please email your piece to the church office at buccoffice23@gmail.com. If you do not have email capabilities, please leave it in the church office or in the black mailbox outside the double doors.

SPIRITUAL LIFE (CONTINUED)

ALL SOULS SERVICE – The All Souls service is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who passed away this year (between last November and today). Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at: buccoffice23@gmail.com by November 1st. This year's service will take place on Sunday, November 5th.

STAFF/CONGREGATION RELATIONS (SCR)

BUCC NURSERY – If you love little children and want to share some of your time with our infants and toddlers, please consider signing up on Breeze to be a Nursery helper on Sundays during the church service. We are blessed that our own Amelia Elting has volunteered to be our Nursery Attendant until we can hire a permanent staff member to fill the position. We will be exploring the feasibility of hiring an attendant in the first quarter of 2024. While Amelia is very capable, she may require a helping hand on occasion, so we are looking for several volunteers who are willing to check in with her prior to the start of the service to see if she needs help.

If you are a parent of an infant or toddler and think you might be interested in utilizing the nursery on any given Sunday, please check in with Amelia prior to the start of service and let her know if you will be allowing your child to stay in the nursery before the service or if you plan to bring them in after Word with Young Worshippers. You will find Amelia in the Nursery or in Ms. Mindy's classroom. We ask parents of Nursery children to please fill out a Nursery information form – they are in the Nursery, in a binder near the door. We also ask that you be available by text if our Nursery Attendant needs you to return to the nursery for any reason.

Thank you,
Evie Novak, SCR

Announcements:

RALLY DAY – BUCC Rally Day was filled with food & fellowship. Many thanks to all who attended and contributed. We collected 141 pounds of school supplies for students in need. Once again, many thanks for your generosity!



COMMUNION – Please note this change to our worship calendar: October 1 and October 22 will be Communion Sundays, for the month of October only.



MINDFULNESS MEDITATION GROUP – Our group continues to meet weekly, on Wednesdays from 11am til noon. On Wednesday **October 11**, we are planning a field trip to Crown Point Ecology Center, to walk their labyrinth. We will meet at 10:50 am in the BUCC parking lot, then drive together. Their address is 3220 Ira Road, Akron. If it's a bad weather day, we will meet in the Parlor as usual. This labyrinth is mowed ground in a large field, so you might consider boots or similar appropriate footwear. Please feel free to contact Carol VanDuyne or the church office if you have any questions: 440-526-4364.



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

Gayle Colbert	October 14
Heather Hunt	October 16
Joy Garapic	October 21
Elizabeth Wilson	October 24
Leroy Ford	October 26
Jesse Wade	October 30

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



CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., OCTOBER 2

Tue., OCTOBER 3

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

Wed., OCTOBER 4

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6pm SCR
7pm Stewardship

Thu., OCTOBER 5

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Seasonal Choir
8pm Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 6

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 7

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
10am Worship Service
11:15am OCWM

Mon., OCTOBER 9

Tue., OCTOBER 10

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

Wed., OCTOBER 11

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., OCTOBER 12

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Seasonal Choir
8pm Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 13

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 14

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15
PILLAR DEADLINE
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 16

Tue., OCTOBER 17
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Communications

Wed., OCTOBER 18

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., OCTOBER 19

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Seasonal Choir
8pm Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 20

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 21

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 23

Tue., OCTOBER 24

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

Wed., OCTOBER 25

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., OCTOBER 26

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Seasonal Choir
8pm Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 28

10am **RETREAT @**
Canalway

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

10am Worship Service
4pm **FALL CONCERT**

Mon., OCTOBER 30

Tue., OCTOBER 31

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

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 1, 2023

Head Usher: Peg Duffy
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rob Grow
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Jenn Elting
Lois Lorenzo
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 15, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Greeter: Carol Miller
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: Carole Snider
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
Connie Schultz
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 8, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Michelle Rogers
Greeter: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Snack: Peg Duffy
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 22, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 29, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

A/V: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: Jackie Cassara
Jenn Elting
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

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FIRST CLASS

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