



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2024

**“ . . . the wilderness
will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus,
it will burst into bloom;”**

- Isaiah 35:1-2



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Listening to each member of the congregation has been my top priority and my greatest joy since you called me to be pastor. We've met for coffee, in your homes, hospitals and even in church. Especially in a congregational tradition, that dynamic between congregational leadership and pastoral leadership is energizing, leaving an open seat for the still speaking voice of the Spirit to join.

Time certainly flies when we're having fun! It's hard to believe that I've been here over two years. Since then, we have grown and learned together. I have set the goal of meeting with each person for an extended conversation. I love listening to you, learning where your faith journey has taken you, and envisioning where that journey will take us next. There are still just a few people I've missed; if I've missed you, please call so we can get together soon!

Because it is so important for a pastor to listen to the congregation, I made only one request before you voted to call me as pastor. I asked that we follow the process described in a UCC document called *A Sure Foundation*.

So, I am delighted that last month, following the best practices described in *A Sure Foundation*, Church Council unanimously approved the formation of a new resource call the Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC). The Pastoral Relations Committee is very helpful in fostering a strong, healthy relationship between a congregation and their pastor.

The PRC serves as an advisory group to the pastor, exploring ideas, dreams, expectations, and strategies. And that goes both ways. If there are any concerns or ideas from the congregation, the PRC responds by facilitating healthy communication, and ensuring that every person is heard respectfully. A good PRC becomes a support group to the pastor, establishing a partnership of trust and confidence. And it supports the congregation, by ensuring that every voice is heard and taken seriously. This goes a long way toward interpreting expectations, functions, boundaries, opportunities, conflicts and needs as they arise between the pastor and the congregation.

Gossip is toxic. Healthy communities have healthy communication. So, you and I can both rely on the PRC. It encourages us to share our ideas appropriately and constructively. The PRC is for you to share your ideas with the pastor – suggestions for growth, concerns and even compliments.

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

The PRC provides a safe place for a healthy exchange of ideas. Moreover, the PRC is for me to share the concerns and joys I carry as a pastor.

That kind of communication is important in every church, but it is especially important in a church that is experiencing the kind of rapid growth that we are seeing. Growth means change; change can be both exciting and hard. Every pastor knows the seven deadliest words of ministry: "But we've *always* done it this way." When we pastors gather for meetings, a common theme pastors talk about is how congregations want pastors to increase giving, increase membership, bring in more young people – just don't change anything! With growth, change is inevitable. Healthy communication promotes healing and understanding through growth.

To understand more about the PRC, I encourage everyone in the congregation to read *A Sure Foundation*. This is a short booklet prepared by the UCC, specifically, the Ministerial Excellence, Support & Authorization (MESA) team. The PRC has existed as a recommended practice in the UCC since at least the 1980's. But *A Sure Foundation*, published in 2018, offers new wisdom, best practices and examples. You can read that document on our church website at: brecksvilleucc.org/archives/publications/asf.

So, I hope you will be in touch with the members of the PRC. The members are Jill Zedan, Melanie Falls, Mark Lehman, Rose Kaval and Bob Chandler. Listening properly to one another is lifegiving. I want to thank each of them for committing to building healthy dialogue, understanding, and a strong, long-lasting relationship of trust between congregation and pastor.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK - We are on Facebook in two ways:

- **Our Facebook Page** – Reaching out to all Facebook users with our message of inclusion and positivity. Here we share anything we want the whole world to know about us.
- **Our Facebook Group** – A “members only” communication mechanism to reach the members of our congregation. Here we share information with our members that is “just for us.” It is a safe place for sharing news, needs and hopes with our community.

The Facebook **Page** can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/BrecksvilleUCC>

To receive updates, press the



button (under the top picture, on the right side).

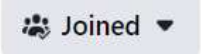
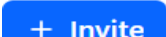
The Facebook **Group** can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/buccmembership>

Today, it looks like:



(Facebook information continued)

To join, you must press the [Join group] button, then one of our administrators will confirm who you are and let you in. Once you join, the [Join group] button will change to  - then you can  others to join.

If you have any questions or need help posting or sharing our Facebook events, please contact us or anyone else in the Communication & Outreach Ministry. - Jim Duffy and Heidi Spangler

SOCIAL JUSTICE (Formerly OCWM)

The newly named Social Justice Ministry is planning to have an event involving the MetroParks in honor of Arbor Day. This will likely involve planting either saplings or milkweed (to invite butterflies).

Melanie Falls is working on the details. As soon as there are specifics, we will let the congregation know. We consider protecting the earth and mindfulness about ecology as part of our social justice commitment. To that end, please consider signing up at Arborday.org as a step toward better awareness.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

THANK YOU from Spiritual Life! Our Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday observances were made much brighter by the seven magicians who provided homemade soup. We are so grateful to Lois Lorenzo, Anne Melfo, Tina Posey, Sherrill Witt, Karen Sandstrom, Connie Schultz and Jenn Elting (x2!) for their delicious contributions. We are so spoiled! And many thanks also to Kate Matthews for providing chocolates for our unique Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day observance. What an indulgence!

SPIRITUAL LIFE *(continued)*

GOSPEL SINGER ANGELA

LYNARD – We are thrilled to announce that Angela Lynard, formerly the music minister at Amistad Chapel UCC and a longtime gospel singer at Pilgrim UCC in Cleveland, will join us for our regular service at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 7 as guest hymn leader and gospel soloist. In collaboration with Dave Debick and the BUCC choir, Angie will lead songs from the ***New Century Hymnal***



and ***Sing! Prayer and Praise***, published by the UCC's Pilgrim Press. Please join us for what promises to be a joyful and uplifting service for the second Sunday of Easter.

BRECKSVILLE UCC FREE CONCERT SERIES - On Sunday, May 19, at 4:00 PM, BUCC will host a free concert featuring the Cleveland State University Percussion Ensemble, directed by Luke Rinderknecht. Mr. Rinderknecht is also planning on bringing a couple other instrumental ensembles from CSU to perform on the program that afternoon. More information on this event will be made available in May's Pillar and bulletin announcements leading up to the event.

ONA (Open and Affirming) - June is Pride month and in preparation for the June 1st March/Festival, BUCC will be putting an ad in the Pride Guide. In April and May, Allison Colbert will be selling rainbow t-shirts, bracelets, pins, etc., to help defray the ad cost. Check out her table in the lobby every Sunday to buy/order merchandise, or for more info about the March/Festival! Also, on June 8, our church will again have a booth at the BBH Pridefest, at the Broadview Heights pavilion.

STEWARDSHIP

INTENTIONAL CARING MINISTRY – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Creator in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

Many of us view BUCC as an extension of our own family. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we want to be there for one another when a need arises. There is a very good chance that most of us will need a helping hand at some point in our lives. Our current protocol for helping our members is to send out word through Sunday announcements, prayer requests or word of mouth, and those that can help, come running. Our Church Council and the Stewardship Ministry have considered that it may be beneficial to create a more structured intentional caring ministry.

We would like to gauge our member’s interest in participating in such a ministry, whether that be in a leadership role or as a helping hand. We envision that this ministry will define ways in which our membership can be of service to one another, possibly through card writing, visiting, driving members to doctor appointments or to church, or organizing meals. This group may want to consider what resources are available - both monetary and human resources. Eventually the ministry may want to identify team leaders for different categories of member care and recruit members to serve on those teams.

If you have an interest in being a part of an intentional caring ministry, please contact Anne Melfo in the church office, Bridget Sproul (Chair of the Stewardship Ministry), or any Stewardship member.



Important Notes:



FLOWER MINISTRY NEWS

The flower display below the cross has been a tradition in our church for years. Although there are many talented members who have acted as flower arrangers in the past, many are presently dealing with health concerns that are taking their time. We hope these members will soon be able to do this again, and we hope that some additional members will consider this opportunity!

What is involved with doing the display on Sunday? It is very simple and flexible:

- First you pick a Sunday by signing up on Breeze. If you are not sure how to do this, just let Peg Duffy or Kathy Pastor know what date you would like.
- Create a display for Sunday with cut flowers, flowers from your garden, or just buy a premade arrangement if you prefer. You can be reimbursed up to \$20 for the flowers.
- In creating the display, you can use containers from our flower room or use your own. We also have foam and baskets available for use.
- Set the display on the altar shelf sometime before service.

If you would like a tour of the flower room to see where things are located or have any other questions, please reach out to Peg or Kathy. You can do this once and see if you like it. There is no obligation to do it on a regular basis.

Thanks for considering using your appreciation of flowers in this way.

- The Flower Ministry



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

Arthur	Cook	April 09
Brian	Esser	April 18
Nate	Hunt	April 22
Rob	Grow	April 27
Stu	Bailey	April 28
Claire	Esser	April 29
Sherrill	Witt	April 29

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

CALENDAR

APRIL 2024



Mon., APRIL 1
7pm Facilities

Tue., APRIL 2
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Spiritual Life

Wed., APRIL 3
11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 4
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., APRIL 5
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., APRIL 6

SUNDAY, APRIL 7
10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., APRIL 8

Tue., APRIL 9
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30PM Social Justice

Wed., APRIL 10
11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., APRIL 11
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., APRIL 12
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., APRIL 13

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 15

Tue., APRIL 16
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Communications &
Outreach

Wed., APRIL 17
11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6pm Braver Angels
7pm Stewardship

Thu., APRIL 18
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., APRIL 19
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., APRIL 20
4pm CSB

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 22

Tue., APRIL 23
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., APRIL 24
11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 25
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., APRIL 26 – ARBOR DAY
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., APRIL 27

SUNDAY, APRIL 28
10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 29

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



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 7, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: TBD
Snack: TBD
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 14, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 21, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 28, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: TBD
Snack: Jenn Elting
TBD
Setup/Serve: Jenn Elting
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

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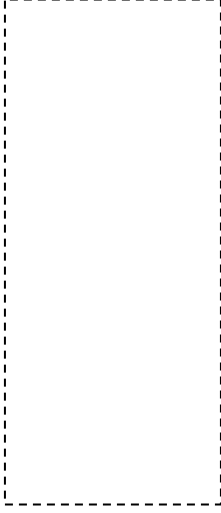
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FIRST CLASS



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