



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JUNE 2024



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Several years ago, I read a wonderful book, Becoming a Welcoming Church by Thom Rainer. He explores how most church members perceive their church to be very friendly, while newcomers often feel differently. Why the discrepancy? Rainer proposes that this happens because church members are *indeed friendly – toward each other*. The book endeavors to understand why newcomers often fail to experience that same level of friendliness, and what specific steps we may undertake to become a more welcoming church.

Last week I had lunch with a couple of our newer members. We spent a lot of time talking about their experiences in their first year at Brecksville United Church of Christ. They told me, “We have never met such a welcoming group of people!”

So, the main thing I want to say is, “Thank you, Brecksville United Church of Christ.” You are indeed living out the mission of the UCC to share “Radical Hospitality” and “Extravagant Welcome.” Michael Jordan said, “Get the fundamentals down and the level of everything you do will rise.” We are a welcoming church; and we keep practicing the fundamentals of hospitality. Because, once we establish relationships and community in church, it’s easy to forget what it was like to be a first-time guest.

Rainer describes “holy huddles” where we tend to congregate with like-minded friends. This is not surprising – we’ve done it all our lives. But doing this at church can make the congregation feel impenetrable and exclusive to newcomers, while the insiders perceive no problem whatsoever.

The building also deserves to be reviewed from the eyes of a first-time guest. A newcomer is not sure which door to enter, which way to go once inside, or how to find the restroom. When they do discover the way to the restroom, does it look clean? Is it updated? Wheelchair accessible? Rainer says all of this contributes to the decision to return.

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

This is especially true for families with kids. Fortunately, Amelia does a great job with babysitting, and Mindy is wonderful with kids at every Sunday service. Right now, we are also looking for volunteers to be ushers and greeters. All of these are ministries of hospitality.

Are we actively looking for the engagement and ideas of our newest members? If they join a committee or ministry, do they experience a group that is receptive to their new ideas? Most groups have jargon. But these can make an otherwise interesting conversation incomprehensible to a newcomer. BUCC, has SCR & PRC; SJM (OCWM), ONA and CE. Sure, if you've been around a while you can translate that sentence. Intentional hospitality means avoiding acronyms; they can undermine efforts by new guests to feel they are engaged with the of the community, not outside of it.

None of these experiences *individually* are enough to make a first-time guest flee. But considered as a whole experience, they can leave a new visitor feeling like they are crashing a party to which they were not invited. We want each individual to feel that they have come home to a family which has always been there waiting for them to walk through the door.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

CURB APPEAL – New front doors will be installed in July. The new doors will be easy to open and close and will require minimal maintenance. The front steps and surrounding cement areas will be power washed. This project with the addition of new front doors will give the front of the church a much needed upgrade.

The church steeple will be painted this summer. In addition, the rear entrance will be power washed and the rear doors painted. The exterior of the parlor bay window will also be painted.

Finally, the large cedar tree next to the front sign is diseased and will be removed.

FINANCE

On May 12, a collection was taken for Edna House. A check in the amount of \$1,270 was sent to them. Edna House for Women offers long-term, structured sober living and education to women seeking recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SUMMER USHERS - We are testing out a new Usher program for the summer. Specifically, there will now be an **EARLY USHER** and a **LATE USHER**. Different responsibilities are detailed below for each; of course, during the service both ushers will be working in tandem. If you are new to ushering (and we encourage you to sign up for this important yet simple position/no meetings!), you can shadow an usher any Sunday. PLEASE consider signing up on Breeze in advance so we can be assured of a welcoming Sunday service!

EARLY USHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Arrive at 9:30 am.
- Double check doors are unlocked.

Double check the following items (they are usually already done):

- Turn on lights for . . .
 - Upper commons/back entrance (by bulletin board)
 - Ramp hallway parallel to sanctuary (by bottom of ramp)
 - CE hall (top switch, panel halfway down on right) Narthex (switch by front door)
 - Sanctuary (panel by stairs behind pulpit)
- Turn on sanctuary ceiling fans in Narthex, left side of long coat rack)

Prior to service:

- Pull out and angle guestbook cabinet. Encourage guests to sign book and use name tags.
- Check wicks on altar candles (unscrew and lift; candles are in the closet behind the lay reader's lectern).
- Bring four water glasses up from kitchen on small tray and place one by lay reader's chair, one by pastor's chair, one under pastor's pulpit and one on the white cabinet by bulletins in the narthex.
- Distribute bulletins as people arrive.
- Ask two children to light altar candles and peace candle. They are accustomed to this.

During the service:

- When prelude music begins (after announcements and meditation moment) send children forward with candlelighter and peace candle (hanging on side of white cabinet. Matches in top drawer.) Adults can do this if there are no children.
- Close sanctuary doors.

Early Usher can sit for service - returns prior to offering.

(Continued on next page)

On communion Sundays (First and third Sundays of the month):

- Ask someone to join ushers for communion prior to service (need three total).
- Return to narthex for communion.
- All three ushers walk up the center aisle. Two ushers take grape juice and stand in front of pews. One usher takes gluten free crackers from pastor and stands by him.

LATE USHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Prior to service:

- Arrive ten minutes prior to service. Help greet and distribute bulletins.

During the service:

- Remain in narthex during service.
- Count and record attendance from balcony – red book is in top drawer in white cabinet.
- Walk down the center aisle for the offering (following sermon/prayers) with Early Usher when offertory music begins.
- Get acolytes from Sunday School toward the end of service to extinguish candles.

Following the service:

- Collect water glasses by lectern and pulpit and return to kitchen.
- Straighten the sanctuary and narthex. Check pews for personal belongings. Straighten hymnals and pew inserts. Throw away trash. Return leftover bulletins to office.
- Turn off lights and fans (see Early Usher responsibilities for locations).
- Ensure that all exterior doors are locked, or that someone has been delegated to do so (doors can be locked while people are still in the building).

On Communion Sundays (First and third Sundays of the Month):

- Go get Sunday School students to return prior to communion.
- All three ushers walk up the center aisle. Two ushers take grape juice and stand in front of pews. One usher takes gluten free crackers from pastor and stands next to him.
- Following the service, collect communion cups and take them downstairs to the kitchen.

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 members' 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 (440-526-4364), Bridget Sproul (Chair of the Stewardship Ministry), or any Stewardship member.

Important Notes:



BRECKSVILLE/BROADVIEW HEIGHTS PRIDE

PRIDE – On June 8th, our church will again have a booth at the BBH Pridefest, at the Broadview Heights pavilion.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR - The AED has been mounted on the wall near the elevator on the main level of the church, near the name badge/lanyard table. There will be a tutorial video posted on the BUCC Facebook private member page. There will also be a couple of brief in-services (dates to be determined) during coffee hour in late June and July 2024, to demonstrate the easy use of the AED. A huge THANK YOU to Diane Gressley for her generous donation and for obtaining this device for the safety and wellbeing of our congregation!

MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT – Recently, a BUCC member was treated to a tour of the Salvation Army facilities in Medina, which is where BUCC food donations end up. The social worker shared some statistics with me (us):

- In a typical month, about 500 to 600 meals are provided for about 200 households.
- About 175 children receive food.
- Food items in short supply are breakfast cereals, pull-top soup, peanut butter, jelly, and other items.

I had a thought: how would it be if each one of us could bring just one item to Sunday worship? There is a basket next to the office door to receive donated items.

Lastly, a big “THANK YOU” to those BUCC members and friends who have faithfully donated food items as well as other items.



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
Dot	Bailey	June 15
Giuliana	Gagliano	June 15
Maggie	McNamara	June 18
Marla	Corrado	June 19
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 2024

Sat., JUNE 1 **PRIDE IN THE CLE**

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership
3pm Hunger Meal

Mon., JUNE 3

7pm Facilities

Tue., JUNE 4

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

Wed., JUNE 5

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm SCR

Thu., JUNE 6

Fri., JUNE 7
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., JUNE 8

12pm CSB Dignity Potluck

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 10

Tue., JUNE 11
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30PM Social Justice

Wed., JUNE 12

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., JUNE 13

Fri., JUNE 14

OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., JUNE 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 17

Tue., JUNE 18
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Communications &
Outreach

Wed., JUNE 19

OFFICE CLOSED
JUNETEENTH
11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., JUNE 20

Fri., JUNE 21
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., JUNE 22

4pm CSB

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

10am Worship Service

Mon., JUNE 24

Tue., JUNE 25
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., JUNE 26

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Stewardship

Thu., JUNE 27

Fri., JUNE 28
OFFICE CLOSED
11am Drumming

Sat., JUNE 29

SUNDAY, JUNE 30
10am Worship Service



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JUNE 2, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Lay Reader: Jenn Elting
Greeter: Maggie McNamara
Flowers: Jenn Elting
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: Amelia Elting
Peace Candle: Edison Elting
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 16, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Lay Reader: Robert Petrus
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Flowers: Cliff Cribbs
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 9, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Flowers: Katie MacKeigan King
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: Lois Lorenzo
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 23, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Greeter: TBD
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Counters: Marge Culver
Lori Molesky
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

JUNE 30, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: TBD
Flowers: Maggie McNamara
Counter: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz

Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

The Pillar

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