



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

OCTOBER 2024



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Hey, did you know there is an election coming up?

Of course, I'm being silly. It seems this election is all we hear about, talk about or even think about. Which is understandable. For democracy to work, we must stay informed and engaged; above all, VOTE!

And yet, it is stressful. Sometimes, it feels overwhelming. When I get off kilter, it pushes me to step back and rediscover essentials: meditate, stay grounded, remain centered. Pray. Unplug. Breathe. Love.

I was reflecting on this last week, because I've been feeling stressed. There's the emotional fallout from my Dad's death less than a month ago, the inevitable estate work with family, etc. I'm parenting a 16-year-old, which is always an adventure. Then I turn on the news and the stress gets dialed up to eleven. I realized that I was getting out of whack. The remedy? For me, it's about finding time to meditate, pray, choose peace, and reflect on my highest values.

My passion, my life's work – however flawed - has been dedicated to walking the path of discipleship with Jesus. Jesus calls us to make the world a better place. Jesus' way leads us to value certain priorities, such as care for the poor, protection of children, peace, forgiveness, non-violence, honest, integrity, compassion, kindness, forgiveness and reconciliation. This is God's dream for us.

Bono said, "Dream of the kind of world you want to live in! Dream out loud at high volume!" Jesus' dream for the world could be summarized in the Golden Rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

In the month of October I would like to explore this simple theme: "Do Unto Others."

Pastor's Ponderings *(continued from page 2)*

This will be the theme of a six week series, and the idea comes from the dynamic liturgist, Dr. Marcia McFee. She writes:

“Our world seems to be consumed with division – often typified in the colors red and blue. Rather than stay in our monochromatic silos, the Golden Rule in scripture challenges us to engage in conversation and seek to create whatever common good we can with our relatives, friends, and neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically and ideologically. As we attempt to come together, the idea is not that we are obliterating either one or trying to change each other, but rather we discover the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place. The “purple space” is where we cultivate kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love for one another and for the good of all the world, no matter what.”

You may want to prepare for this series by reading your Bible ahead in preparation. Here's the plan:

- October 6: “Blue and Red Make Purple: Kindness”
- read Luke 6: 31-36
- October 13 “The Polarization Within: Compassion”
- read Isaiah 11: 6-9
- October 20 “Listen More, Speak Less: Humility”
- read Ephesians 4: 1-6
- October 27 - Rev. Gene McAfee - ***Being Church Together*** - read John 17: 21-23
- November 3 “Living Together on Uncommon Ground”
- read 1 Corinthians 12: 1-26
- November 10 “Malice Toward None: Love”
- read Matthew 22: 34-40

I hope that you will join us for this preaching series. My hope is that it will be a healing balm in a difficult time. May it call us to remember our shared humanity, our highest values, to treat others as we would want to be treated. Yes, dream of the kind of world we want to live in.

- Pastor John King



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE

The total money collected from our in-house "farmer(s)" is \$69.65 toward the General Fund. Thank you for good, healthy produce!

Statement of Financial Assets Available August 31, 2024:

Sources of Cash

PNC Bank	5,071
US Bank	0
First Federal of Lakewood	<u>14,126</u>

Liquid Cash

19,197

First Federal CD	32,588
United States Treasury Securities	<u>133,907</u>

Cash Balance

185,692

*Spendable Endowment – 0642	93,870
*Restricted Endowment – 0641	66,876
*Stock Bequest – Market Value	<u>42,339</u>

Equity Value

203,085

Total Financial Assets

388,777

Less:

Restricted Endowments	(66,876)
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	(8,870)
	<u>(75,746)</u>

Net Financial Assets Available

313,031

Budgeted Deficit (Revised)

(44,954)

Available Cash / Deficit (years)

7.0 Years

SOCIAL JUSTICE



MENTAL HEALTH JUSTICE FOR ALL

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL COLLECTION - In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is **“Mental Health Justice for All!”** This year’s focus is on Mental Health Justice, and a special offering will be given on October 6. In 2015, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health.

A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life’s mental health journey. Notably, one-third of this offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry \(CAIM\)](#). Two-thirds are used by [Justice and Witness Ministries](#) to provide [grants](#) to UCC churches and organizations, as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We thank you for your support and generosity.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

THIS SATURDAY:



BY REQUEST! BRING YOUR LEASHED OR CRATED PET TO THE BACK ENTRANCE FOR A CASUAL OUTDOOR SERVICE. JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THESE BELOVED CREATURES OF GOD WITH PRAYER AND REFLECTION.



SPIRITUAL LIFE (continued from page 6)



SEASONAL CHOIR – If you enjoy singing in a group setting, but don't have time to commit to being in our regular choir, please consider joining us on a short-term basis to prepare for this year's Christmas cantata. It's scheduled on Sunday December 15, during our regular 10 AM service, and is titled ***Together for Christmas***. Composed by Pepper Choplin in 2006, the piece is a wonderful collection of contemporary and traditional Christmas music. Our first seasonal choir practice will be Thursday October 10, from 7:00-7:45 PM. Listening tracks for each vocal part will be provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Seasonal Choir provides a great opportunity to prepare for the church's annual commemoration of Jesus' birth among us. Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

AUTUMN FREE CONCERT – On Sunday October 27 at 4:00, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the Caos String Quartet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The conservatory-level ensemble will perform works by Bach, Haydn, and Grieg. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Please plan on joining us to enjoy some awesome classical music on Oct 27.



SPIRITUAL LIFE *(continued from page 7)*



MUSIC COMMITTEE – We've decided to form an informal music committee to help provide musical suggestions to Dave Debeck for Sunday worship. The group will meet the first Thursday of each month at 6:15 PM starting on October 3. You don't have to come to every gathering, just whenever you have ideas you'd like to share. Feel free to bring song/piece titles and composers that you'd like to recommend and/or any sheet music you might have. We can't guarantee that all suggestions will be presented to the congregation at worship, but we'll try to incorporate whatever we can, based on our choir's capacities and Dave's keyboard skills!

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.

SPIRITUAL LIFE *(continued from page 8)*

ADVENT *(continued)* – 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 outside black mailbox (by the parking lot double doors).



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

The All Saints' Day service is a loving and reverent remembrance of loved ones who have passed away this year (from November of 2023 to the present). Please submit the names of your departed loved ones and friends to the office email at buccoffice23@gmail.com, or by calling Anne at (440) 526-4364 by October 29th. All submitted names will be recognized during a moment of silence during the service.

"We Remember" Table - Pictures are a loving way to remember family and friends who have passed into the next life, recently or long ago. A dedicated table space will be available in Pilgrim Hall after our All Saints' Day Sunday Service (11/3), for you to share a picture of someone who was dear to you, no matter when they passed away. Please bring your loved one's photo downstairs to the WE REMEMBER TABLE before church. You may write a short dedication at that time or bring one with the picture.

We Want YOU! Are you ready to serve?

Your church is asking you to get involved. It is that time of year when we start looking for people who are willing to serve on our ministries and committees. Can you help? We are especially asking our newer members to step forward and give a break to those who have been serving a bit longer than they intended.

At Brecksville United Church of Christ, you can serve on these ministries:

- Christian Education – Bible Studies, Sunday School, kids programs.
- Communication & Outreach – Website, sound system, social media.
- Facilities – Maintaining the building and grounds.
- Finance – Keeping a budget and living within our means.
- Stewardship/Leadership Development – Finding resources to keep our church thriving.
- Social Justice – Putting our faith into action by serving others.
- Spiritual Life – Sunday Services, retreats, sanctuary decorations etc.
- Human Resources – Taking care of our paid employees.
- Pastoral Relations Committee – Fostering dialogue with the pastor and congregation.
- Membership – Building community, friendships and fun activities.
- Church Council & Officers – Oversees all the activities and need of the whole community.

Can you help? Most of our meetings are hybrid. That means you can either join in person, or remotely wherever you happen to be. And most of our ministries only meet once a month. So you can do this!

We Want YOU! Are you ready to serve? ***(continued from page 10)***

We are a congregational church. We believe that the **congregation** runs the church. This comes from a beautiful theology: *the people are the church!* In other denominations, the pastor has the final word. Here, the pastor doesn't even get a vote!

The United Church of Christ was formed in 1957. To make a convoluted story simple, five traditions came together to form one church – the UCC. They did not work out all their differences. Heck, they didn't even *want* to. They wanted *unity* and they understood it to be different from *uniformity*. So they came together, while still recognizing the autonomy of each congregation to do things their own way.

Remember the Pilgrims on the Mayflower? Turkey dinners? Cool hats? The Pilgrims crossed the Atlantic in 1620 looking for religious freedom. Eventually, the Pilgrims became the **Congregationalists**.

President John Adams was a Congregationalist. The Brecksville United Church of Christ was a Congregational church when founded in 1816. We voted to join the UCC, but we still maintain our Congregationalist way of doing things.

Our constitution describes what congregationalism looks like here. While the pastor doesn't get a vote in most meetings, "*The Pastor is the spiritual leader of the congregation. The Pastor shall be the supervisor of all staff operations and personnel.*"¹ The pastor has a voice, and makes plenty of decisions about worship etc. But most decisions about church administration and activities come from the congregation. If the furnace breaks, Congregationalists tell the pastor, "Just preach, Rev. We got this." That's fine with me.

¹ Brecksville United Church of Christ Constitution Art. V Sec.1

We Want YOU! Are you ready to serve? ***(continued from page 11)***

The Brecksville United Church of Christ constitution describes how that covenantal process works. So we have meetings, nominations, motions, votes, and other dull but necessary stuff going on behind the scenes of a thriving church. We follow these procedures, not because we live for the process, but because we honor the people with whom we have formed this covenant.

If you would like to serve on a ministry, please talk to me, Bridget Sproul, Sherrill Witt, or anyone on the Stewardship/Leadership Development (SDL) ministry. Let them know how you would like to serve in your church. And ask questions!

SDL will then meet to make sure that we're getting the right mix of talents and ministries, new and old members, and a good distribution across the different ministries.

Then the SDL prepares a slate of candidates nominated to the different ministries. At the end of January we have our annual congregational meeting. That is when the slate of candidates comes up for a congregational vote. Once approved the new batch of leaders can begin, and the old batch can take a break.

For a short while.

Are you ready to serve?

If we want an active and engaging church, we need active and engaged members. We're especially looking at you, newbies! If you are new, getting involved in these ministries is a great way to make a contribution, build relationships and make your voice heard. You bring fresh perspectives and new ideas. We look forward to hearing from you, and discovering the new ideas that you bring.

— Pastor John King



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

Armand	Eusanio	October 06
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 2024

Tue., OCTOBER 1

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

Wed., OCTOBER 2

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., OCTOBER 3

6:15 pm Music Committee
7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., OCTOBER 4

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 5

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., OCTOBER 7

7pm Facilities

Tue., OCTOBER 8

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

Wed., OCTOBER 9

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., OCTOBER 10

7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Regular Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 11

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 12

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 14

Tue., OCTOBER 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

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

Wed., OCTOBER 16

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6 pm Braver Angels

Thu., OCTOBER 17

7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Regular Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 18

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 19

4pm CSB

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 21

Tue., OCTOBER 22

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

Wed., OCTOBER 23

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Stewardship

Thu., OCTOBER 24

7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Regular Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 26

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

10am Worship Service
4pm Free Concert

Mon., OCTOBER 28

Tue., OCTOBER 29

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

Wed., OCTOBER 30

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., OCTOBER 31

7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Regular Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 6, 2024

Early Usher: Peg Duffy
Evelyn Seager
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Lori Molesky
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Peg Duffy
Communion
Bread: Jenn Elting
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 13, 2024

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

OCTOBER 20, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Flowers: Katie MacKeigan King
Communion
Bread: Armand Eusanio
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Bryan Chaikin
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

OCTOBER 27, 2024

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

The Pillar

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Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

