



THE  
*Pillar*  
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 2025



Photo of Virginia Bluebells by Lori Molesky

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

## ***Pastor's Ponderings.....***

I'm really not a nosy neighbor. Usually.

My writing space includes a nice view of the yard. But as I write there, I can also see the front porch of my neighbor, Beth. She's up in years, and sometimes struggles to walk.

I looked up from my keyboard and saw Janet step out on the porch. She stood in the drizzle and stared above. She clutched herself and a sob escaped.

An hour later, more cars than usual congregated in the driveway. Then there was only one car left. It belonged to Janet. Something had happened.



I think it's fair to say that Janet and I disagree wildly on a great deal religiously and politically.

Around election season Janet and Beth supported their candidates with yard signs. I supported the opposing candidates with my yard signs too. One sign was on a very narrow patch of grass by the driveway. Her sign was so close it blocked the view of my sign. I put my sign up on stilts so drivers could see both. We got a bit silly.

Still, I sometimes helped with Beth's trash and always cleared the snow from her walkway.

My wife, Katie sent a Christmas card with a note, "I think we disagree on politics, but I think we agree on how to be good neighbors."

On Christmas Eve, the doorbell rang. There was Janet at our door holding a poinsettia. She expressed regret about the sign kerfuffle. She said how much she appreciated Katie's Christmas Card. Katie and I were both touched by Janet's thoughtfulness and kindness. I took her poinsettia to church to decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve.



But now, I had just observed her crying on the porch. The next day, I walked over and knocked on the door.

"Hi Janet, I couldn't help but notice the other day, because my writing desk faces east, but I saw you cry, and I just wanted to let you know I cared about you, and I care about Beth, and if there's anything I can do to give you a hand or something, maybe just go to the store, or whatever. I'm here for you. Let me know if I can help."

Her heart was full of grace. She said that her mother, Beth, had fallen and broken her hip. She was in so much pain, and she didn't know what to do and thought she really needed to go to the hospital. I assured her she was in my prayers, and I would be there for her if I could.

Later, Beth had hip replacement surgery and was recovering in a nursing facility.

On Easter afternoon, I took this photograph of a magnolia tree. Years ago, Beth told me it was an anniversary gift from her late husband, and when it bloomed, it reminded Beth of him. On Easter, I texted the photo to Beth, and it meant so much to her. As the days went by, I texted more photos of her spring blossoms.

Yes, we disagree on much. We could choose to focus on that. Perhaps we will someday. But we can always choose to show compassion. I think Jesus prefers that to arguing or stonewalling. The choice is always ours.

**"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** -Jesus

Just be kind. Seriously.





## FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

### Statement of Financial Assets Available March 31, 2025

3/31/25

#### Sources of Cash

PNC Bank	20,535
US Bank	0
First Federal of Lakewood	<u>22,259</u>
<b>Liquid Cash</b>	<b>42,794</b>

Certificate of Deposit	0
US Treasury Securities (Purchase Price)	<u>133,907</u>
<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>176,701</b>

*Spendable Endowment – 0642	82,743
*Restricted Endowment – 0641	65,536
*Stock Bequest – Market Value	<u>41,336</u>
<b>Equity Value</b>	<b>189,614</b>

<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>366,314</b>
<b>Less:</b>	
Restricted Endowments	(65,535)
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	<u>( 9,952)</u>
	<b><u>(75,487)</u></b>

<b>Net Financial Assets Available</b>	<b>290,827</b>
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<b>Budgeted Deficit (Revised)</b>	<b><u>(76,984)</u></b>
Available Cash / Deficit (years)	3.8 Years

#### FINANCE

A check in the amount of \$395 will be sent to Living Water Association for the One Great Hour of Sharing collection. OGHS is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ which brings disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. Thank you for your support.

Join us in Akron on  
Sunday, June 8 at 1:10 pm  
at Canal Park for a



Bring the  
whole family!

# Rubber Ducks game



(pricing to come:

need 24 attendees for discount)

Please let Betsey or Mary know if you're  
interested by MAY 24

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### **Edna House Director Visit and Special Offering:**

On Sunday May 4, please join us in Church for a continuing testament and in fellowship hall for a visit with Jen Lasky, the director of the Edna House. Edna House serves women who are recovering and provides a safe sanctuary to support women during the recovery process. Also note that on Sunday May 11 - which is Mother's Day - we will collect a special offering and donations for them.

### **Rainbow Rock Painting:**

On Sunday May 18, please join us in Fellowship Hall after the church service to paint Rainbow Rocks. We are doing this with the children and all are welcome. You do NOT need any painting skills, just a willingness to have fun. Carol Miller will lead the rock painting, and we will distribute these beautiful works of art at the BBH Pride event in June.

**Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church:**  
Sunday May 25 at 4 pm we will be downtown to host and serve the hunger meal. Please note this is Memorial Day weekend. Let Diane Gressley know if you plan to help or serve. We will have sign up information in the narthex in May.

**MAY 10 – Spring Clean-up Project at Garden of Eleven Angels**

The Social Justice Ministry invites you to join with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) for their Spring "Spruce up" of the Garden of Eleven Angels, located at 12205 Imperial Ave in Cleveland on **Saturday, May 10 from 9-noon**. The Garden of Eleven Angels is a memorial established by WRLC to commemorate the women who were murdered in the Buckeye-Shaker/Mount Pleasant area in Cleveland. More information on the Garden can be found here:

<https://wrlandconservancy.org/healing-and-closure-come-for-imperial-ave-residents-as-garden-of-eleven-angels-memorializes-lives-lost/>

We are looking for 10 adult volunteers. Clean up materials will be provided, but you might want to bring your own gloves. Closed-toed shoes and clothes that you do not mind getting dirty are recommended. Dress for the weather! Light refreshment will also be provided. The community very much appreciates this work and will be there to help. Please let us know if you are coming so we can give WRLC the names. You can email Kathy Fagan at [occmeddoc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:occmeddoc@sbcglobal.net) or Melanie Falls at [mlnfalls@gmail.com](mailto:mlnfalls@gmail.com).

**Cleveland Pride event** is Saturday June 7. Please reach out if you would like to walk in the parade. At this time, we are not planning on a "booth" but do plan to walk in the parade. Stay tuned for additional information.

**BBH Pride:** On Saturday June 14 starting from noon 7 pm, we will have a booth at the BBH Pride event. Please mark your calendars to attend and reach out to Melanie Falls for additional information.

## Community Events:

### At Middleburg Heights Community UCC

#### JOIN OTHER UCC YOUTH TO ROCK & RAISE FUNDS

Middleburg Heights Community UCC will host its 49th annual Teeter-Totter Marathon on Saturday, May 3 from 9am-9pm, and Sunday, May 4 from 8am-12pm. Please join us for a fun family event riding the teeter-totter, collecting money, eating snacks, and jamming out to hits from 1977 to now. We're raising money for Second Mile Outreach (food pantry) and The Gathering Place (cancer care). More info, sign ups, and donations at our event hub: [givebutter.com/ttm49](http://givebutter.com/ttm49)



**HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF 2,500 BUCKETS & KITS FOR 2025!**

Join the challenge by checking out the updated needs at [cwskits.org](http://cwskits.org). Once your buckets and kits are assembled, drop them off at our new depot location:

CAMP CHRISTIAN RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
10299 MAPLE DELL RD. MARYSVILLE, OH 43040

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



### Disaster Relief Efforts- Read More at:

<https://heartlanducc.org/disaster-response-network/>

#### [Emergency Cleanup Buckets, Hygiene Kits, Period Packs](#)

[Welcome Backpacks, and School Kits...](#) and we need your help!

Inspire your Congregation with the Bucket/Kit Challenge [with this](#)

[Mission Moment video](#)! To learn more about the challenge, click below to see the full packing list and instructions:

- [Disaster Relief Buckets](#)
- [Hygiene Kits](#)
- [Period Packs](#)
- [Welcome Backpacks](#)
- [School Kits](#)
- No time to make a kit? No problem, you can [contribute directly to CWS by clicking here](#).

By filling these buckets full of essential home recovery supplies and/or daily hygiene supply needs (using the shopping lists at the links above), we can help our neighbors' dignity and recovery.



## **2025 Summer Camp Registration is Open!**

The following will be held at Camp Christian, Disciples of Christ, Marysville, OH:

Music Mindfulness Art Dance Drama, June 15-21, 2025

Camp Out, June 15-21, 2025

Sportscamp, June 22-28, 2025

Seek and Sip, July 30-August 2, 2025 (ADULT)

Grands and Family 1, June 11-14, 2025 (Held at Camp Christian), July 27-30 (Held at Camp Glen), August 3-6, 2025 (Held at Camp Wanake)

Register at: <https://heartlanducc.org/storycontinues/>

## **Suicide Prevention Training**

The Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators is offering a 90-minute online Suicide Prevention Training on Zoom that is open to anyone.

Tuesday May 6, 2025 7:00-8:30pm ET

Space is limited - REGISTER NOW at

[https://michucc.breezechms.com/form/SuicidePreventionGLAUC\\_E](https://michucc.breezechms.com/form/SuicidePreventionGLAUC_E)

QPR--Question, Persuade, Refer--are the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives.

QPR's mission is to reduce suicidal behaviors and save lives by providing one of the most effective and widely taught suicide prevention training. This training is important because, regardless of your background, quality education empowers all people to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know.

Cost of \$20.00 covers the cost of our facilitator Anita Whitworth from NAMI



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

Robin Coyer	May 05
Lindsey Maier	May 07
Gina Cook	May 12
Terry Heiman	May 18
Danyel Esser	May 21
Peg Duffy	May 30

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



# CALENDAR

## MAY 2024

**Thu., MAY 1**  
6:30pm Music Committee  
7pm Choir

**Fri., MAY 2**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MAY 3**

**SUNDAY, MAY 4**  
10am Worship Service  
11:30am Membership

**Mon., MAY 5**  
7pm Facilities

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

**Wed., MAY 7**  
4pm Stewardship

**Thu., MAY 8**  
10:30am Called to Care  
7pm Choir

**Fri., MAY 9**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MAY 10**  
9am Spring Clean up

**SUNDAY, MAY 11**  
*Mother's Day*  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., MAY 12**

**Tue., MAY 13**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
6:30pm Social Justice

**Wed., MAY 14**  
7pm Council

**Thu., MAY 15**  
7pm Choir

**Fri., MAY 16**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***  
6:30pm Brecksville  
Squares

**Sat., MAY 17**

**SUNDAY, MAY 18**  
10am Worship Service  
11am Rock Painting

**Mon., MAY 19**

**Tue., MAY 20**  
8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall  
7:30pm Communication &  
Outreach

**Wed., MAY 21**

5:45pm Braver Angels

**Thu., MAY 22**

7pm Choir

**Fri., MAY 23**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MAY 24**

**SUNDAY, MAY 25**  
10am Worship Service  
4pm Hunger Meal

**Mon., MAY 26**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Tue., MAY 27**

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

**Wed., MAY 28**

**Thu., MAY 29**  
7pm Choir

**Fri., MAY 30**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***  
6:30pm Brecksville  
Squares

**Sat., MAY 31**



# PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

**MAY 4, 2025**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
Greeter: Sherrill Witt  
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews  
Flowers: Sue Stenzel  
Counters: Janet Renovetz  
              Sue Stenzel  
A/V: David Pastor  
Snack: Carole Snider  
Setup/Serve: Sherrill Witt  
Cleanup: Kathy Pastor  
              Sherrill Witt  
Communion Bread: Sherrill Witt  
Bread:

**MAY 11, 2025**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt  
Flowers: Sherrill Witt  
Counters: Kathy Pastor  
              TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: Sue Stenzel  
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel  
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel

**MAY 18, 2025**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD  
Flowers: TBD  
Counters: Sue Stenzel  
              TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
Cleanup: TBD  
Communion Bread: TBD  
Bread:

**MAY 25, 2025**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Flowers: Peg Duffy  
Counters: TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snack: Sue Stenzel  
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel  
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel

# *The Pillar*

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Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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