

THE *Pillar*  
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2021



Closeup of mosaic of the face of Christ, courtesy of  
the Church of the Transformation, Orleans, MA

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

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

### **Connected!**

*“After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and all peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.”*

**-Revelation 7:9**

As we travelled the road from Cleveland to Haliburton, where our summer cottage is located, I was thinking about how amazing it is that those two places are connected.

Starting in one place, we could go along a series of paved roads and get to the other. And in fact, we could have gone anywhere in North America, or even South America, via those roads.

Roads go everywhere, connecting every place to every other. You might need a GPS to figure out all the connections you need, to get from here to there, but the connections exist. You can trace a path.

It's not just places that are connected. It's people, too. Probably you have heard about “six degrees of separation”. As Wikipedia explains, “Six degrees of separation is the idea that all people on average are six, or fewer, social connections away from each other.”

John Donne, the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, knew this in the seventeenth century:

*“No man is an island, entire of itself; Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. ... Any man's death diminishes me, Because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.”*

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## ***Pastor's Ponderings..... (continued)***

This intuition that we are all connected has been powerfully strengthened by the threat of Covid to all humankind, in every continent and every nation. We are all in this together. When the bell tolls elsewhere, it means it will soon toll here, too. We are six degrees away from infection, and the virus can come to us via many roads.

John's revelation proclaims this truth, too: We are all connected, and God cares for all of us. When we come before the throne of God, people of every kind and from every place will be there, together, all celebrating what God has done. When God reigns, all the barriers will be broken down, and the connectedness of all people will be apparent, for we will be connected to each other through God. But there's no need to wait until heaven makes that clear. We can live as though we were connected to everyone now, here on earth. How great would that be!



# ***FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC***

## **COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH**

### **WATCH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES LIVE ON YOUTUBE!**

We are excited about gathering in-person after these many months - for those who cannot join us, please watch our "Live-Stream" on YouTube. The simplest way is to go to our website at: **[www.brecksvilleucc.org/live](http://www.brecksvilleucc.org/live)**



- From about Friday until Sunday morning, you will find the streaming video for the coming Sunday cued up and ready to go. Pressing play  will start the live-stream. If you click before we are actually live, it will notify you when the video is scheduled to start.
- After the service and through the following Thursday, the recorded service from the previous Sunday will be available for replay, by pressing play .

Please go to our “**Upcoming and Recent Services**” page (under the “Worship” tab, in the horizontal blue bar), to download and print the Bulletin. You can also replay earlier services from this page, by clicking on any of the dates listed.

Please contact **Jim Duffy** at **[jmorganduffy@gmail.com](mailto:jmorganduffy@gmail.com)**, or by calling **216-644-2784**, if you have any questions.

## **FACILITIES**

Three air conditioner units had to be replaced at a cost of \$14,000. The Council and Facilities Ministry are requesting additional financial support from the congregation, to cover this unexpected cost.

A review of rental fees for the sanctuary, parlor, kitchen and Pilgrim Hall is being conducted. One question for Council is whether we wish to continue the current policy of no rental fees for members of the congregation, other than custodial fees.

We are currently negotiating a lease renewal with A Special Wish Cleveland.

We will be seeking bids to repair the driveway on the west side of the educational wing. There are several potholes and deterioration of the blacktop.

## **OCWM**

**HUNGER MEAL** – The next Hunger Meal is scheduled for Sunday, August 22nd, from 3:00pm - 6:00pm. This time around, it's happening at the Pearl Road United Methodist Church, located at 4200 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44109. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Matt Wolbert at [mjwolbert@hotmail.com](mailto:mjwolbert@hotmail.com).

## **PASTOR SEARCH AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The PSNC has successfully submitted our Local Church Profile to the Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast. It has been approved for posting as of 7/6/2021, to the UCC Ministry Opportunities site. The Profile paints the picture of our church today, and our hopes for the future. We urge all members to read it over and to be very proud of who we are! The Committee met with our UCC Staff Contact, Rev. Nayiri Karjian, on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We discussed the next steps in the Pastor Search process, regarding applications and the interview process – this normally takes 3-6 months, based on the timing and number of applications received. We will keep BUCC members informed as we move forward.

If you would like to read our new BUCC Church Profile, please go to the link below, then click on the blue **“Download More Information”** button (found at bottom of column on right):

**<https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=4612>**

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherrill Witt, PSNC Co-Chair



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## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**REOPENING RECAP** – As promised, Spiritual Life has revisited several of the re-opening procedures initially set in place. Singing and responding is now allowed, if you feel comfortable doing so! We are going to continue to encourage congregants to sit in the socially-distanced pew areas, and to bring your own communion (BYOC). Collection plates will remain at the entrance doors. For the time being, our traditional closing circle and coffee hour remain suspended. Thank you for helping us to mindfully ease back into worship!

**FALL 2021 MUSIC MINISTRY** – After ~15 months of hibernation, our music program at Brecksville UCC is slowly coming back to life! Volunteer singers and instrumentalists have been presenting musical offerings since mid-June. We still need a few volunteers to finish out the month of August. Please contact Dave Debick if you're interested in sharing your musical gifts with our congregation and summer guests.

A word about September: The **Adult Choir** will start meeting from 7:00 – 8:30pm on Thursday evenings, beginning on 9/9. If you can hold a tune and/or match pitches, you are welcome to join us! High school students are also welcome. Adult Choir sings anthems at weekly services, and also leads the hymns.

**Joyful Noise Choir** will also start meeting on Thursdays - also on 9/9 – and will run from 5:30-6:15. This group is for K-5th graders. We learn easy songs about God, Jesus, love, peace, the Bible, respecting others. Sometimes motions or easy dance steps are taught, to liven up the proceedings! We present music at Sunday service every month or so.

The **Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble** practice runs from 5:00-5:30 on Thursdays, starting 9/9. Sheet music is provided with both standard musical notation and music note letters. Easy tunes are presented as preludes every month or so.

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## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **Fall 2021 Music Ministry (*continued*)**

The **Youth Percussion Group** is open to 6th graders and older, including adults. We rehearse on an as-needed basis for preludes, offertories, Communion music, and postludes; occasionally we accompany the choirs.

**Private piano lessons** will also begin on 9/9. Dave D. will contact previous students, to schedule starting times. If you're interested in taking lessons and are a new student, let Dave know so he can include you on the schedule.

Instrumentalists are encouraged to share their musical gifts during Sunday services. If you're comfortable playing in public, you won't find a more affirming group than BUCC's congregation! Let Dave know what you play, so he can schedule and rehearse with you.

Another announcement about these music groups will be included in September's Pillar. Don't hesitate to contact **Dave** with any questions at: **buccmusic23@gmail.com**, or see directory for his cell phone number.



**FLOWERS** – Many thanks to those who are providing flowers for August's services:

**8/1 Julie Bernard**  
**8/8 Tia Began**  
**8/15 Dorie Gabor**

**8/22 Sue Stenzel**  
**8/29 Janet Renovetz**



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

- |            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| August 2:  | Mike Corrado                  |
| August 8:  | Courtnei Began                |
| August 9:  | Kathy Ford                    |
| August 11: | Beth Rehling                  |
| August 15: | Dave Bernard<br>George Snider |
| August 16: | Carol Miller                  |
| August 18: | Bettina Ortiz                 |
| August 21: | Emily Lane<br>Noah Lane       |
| August 25: | Zachary Novak                 |
| August 30: | Claire Novak                  |

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



# Calendar

## AUGUST 2021

**Sunday, AUGUST 1**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., AUGUST 2**

**Tue., AUGUST 3**  
11am Pastor's Office  
Hour

**Wed., AUGUST 4**

**Thu., AUGUST 5**

**Fri., AUGUST 6**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., AUGUST 7**

**Sunday, AUGUST 8**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., AUGUST 9**

**Tue., AUGUST 10**  
11am Pastor's Office  
Hour

**Wed., AUGUST 11**  
7:15pm Council Mtng  
Service

**Thu., AUGUST 12**

**Fri., AUGUST 13**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., AUGUST 14**

**Sunday, AUGUST 15**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., AUGUST 16**  
**\*PILLAR DEADLINE\***

**Tue., AUGUST 17**  
11am Pastor's Office  
Hour

**Wed., AUGUST 18**

**Thu., AUGUST 19**

**Fri., AUGUST 20**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., AUGUST 21**

**Sunday, AUGUST 22**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., AUGUST 23**

**Tue., AUGUST 24**  
11am Pastor's Office  
Hour

**Wed., AUGUST 25**

**Thu., AUGUST 26**

**Fri., AUGUST 27**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., AUGUST 28**

**Sunday, AUGUST 29**  
10am Worship Service

**Mon., AUGUST 30**

**Tue., AUGUST 31**  
11am Pastor's Office  
Hour



## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

### AUGUST 1, 2021

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs  
Head Usher: Jon Thompson  
Ushers: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Acolyte: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Peace Candle: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Sound: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
A/V: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel  
Flowers: Julie Bernard  
Counters: Nancy Stella  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### AUGUST 8, 2021

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski  
Head Usher: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Ushers: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Acolyte: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Peace Candle: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Sound: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
A/V: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Comns Grtr: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Flowers: Tia Began  
Counters: Jim Duffy  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### AUGUST 15, 2021

Lay Reader: Elizabeth Gadus  
Head Usher: Sue Maier  
Ushers: Sue Stenzel  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Acolyte: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Peace Candle: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Sound: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
A/V: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Comns Grtr: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Flowers: Dorie Gabor  
Counters: Jon Thompson  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### AUGUST 22, 2021

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Head Usher: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Ushers: Jon Thompson  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Acolyte: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Peace Candle: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Sound: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
A/V: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Comns Grtr: Dorie Gabor  
Flowers: Sue Stenzel  
Counters: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

### AUGUST 29, 2021

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson  
Head Usher: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Ushers: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Acolyte: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Peace Candle: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Sound: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
A/V: Betsey Wilson  
Comns Grtr: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**  
Flowers: Janet Renovetz  
Counters: Sue Stenzel  
**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

# *The Pillar*

is published monthly by the  
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## FIRST CLASS

