



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2024



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Called to Care

I've been out a lot lately. Sorry about that. There was knee surgery last fall, a nasty cold in July, and Covid in August. My Dad died on August 26 and I'm writing the obituary now. Because of Covid I was unable to be with my Dad as he lost the ability to communicate. Every time I was feeling low, some of you helped lift me up. With prayers, cards, even meals, you've helped me.

Thank you for reminding me that little things mean a lot. You've shown me the significance of small expressions of care.

Once there was a man who was paralyzed. His friends wanted to help him reach Jesus and seek healing. They were so determined to help their friend that they lowered him through the roof!

We get by with a little help from our friends. It was true for John, Paul, George and Ringo. It was true for that paralyzed man, and it is true for all of us.

Called to Care is a new initiative at Brecksville United Church of Christ. It is based on these two truths: every one of us needs help sometimes; and every one of us can help in some way. Christ has called us to serve those in need. *Called to Care* answers that call in a very local way. *Called to Care* seeks to match those who can lend a hand with those who need a hand.

Here are some of the ways that the volunteers in our *Called to Care* ministry may be able to support the people in our community:

- Sending cards of encouragement.
- Visiting parishioners who are in the hospital and homebound.
- Calling to check in especially for those living alone.
- Prayers - all of us need prayers, and all of us can offer prayers.

Think globally, act locally.

At Brecksville United Church of Christ, we are committed to living the mission of Jesus Christ. We think globally. Indeed, one of our members, Rev. Shari Prestemon, has a job description that is, in part, "Executive for Global Ministries."

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

She represents the UCC, traveling the globe, recently visiting partners in Palestine, Israel, Jordan and other areas around the world. We contribute to the UCC Global Ministries. And we are supporting women's education internationally. We share the vision of Jesus Christ to bring healing and justice and bread to the world. This, Jesus told us to do. We strive to make the world a better planet. Yes, we think globally.

AND we act locally. One of the best ways to live our faith is to just show kindness to the people around us. Like the friends who helped the man who was paralyzed. We get by with a little help from our friends. *Called to Care* is one way we do that in a very local way.

Can you help? You only need to take on as much as you like. If you would like to be on one of our *Called to Care* teams or if you know of someone that might benefit from cards, phone calls, a visit or prayers, please let me know.

Thanks - Pastor John King

One of the best ways to get involved in Brecksville United Church of Christ is through our various ministries. Right now, we need some help with the Christian Education Ministry. Do you have kids in Sunday School? Perhaps it's time to restart the Bible Study. We are looking for help with the Christian Education Ministry. They tend to meet once per month. Members of the Christian Education Ministry do not actually have to lead or even participate in all of the activities. But they meet once per month to organize and coordinate them.

If we want an active church, we need active and involved members. I am hoping that parents, especially, might help with the Christian Education Committee, to provide the kinds of educational opportunities that we would like to see for our members. Can you pitch in? Please contact me or Bridget Sproul and we'd love to explore the possibilities with you. Thanks - Pastor John



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE

A check in the amount of \$3,374 was sent to the Living Water Association - \$2,690 went towards 2nd quarter dues, and \$684 went towards the “Strengthen The Church” campaign. The annual STC offering helps to plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Thank you for your donations.

Statement of Financial Assets Available July 31, 2024:

Sources of Cash

PNC Bank	9,747
US Bank	0
First Federal of Lakewood	<u>14,126</u>

Liquid Cash

23,873

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

Cash Balance

166,495

*Spendable Endowment – 0642	94,412
*Restricted Endowment – 0641	66,394
*Stock Bequest – Market Value	<u>45,795</u>

Equity Value

205,601

Total Financial Assets

395,969

Less:

Restricted Endowments	(66,394)
Current Liabilities – Budgeted Expenses	(9,231)

(75,625)

Net Financial Assets Available

320,344

Budgeted Deficit (Revised)

(44,954)

Available Cash / Deficit (years)

7.1 Years

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Are you interested in helping the youth and adults of BUCC? Please consider becoming the chairperson of the Christian Education Ministry. No experience is necessary, other than wanting to help out. Miss Mindy does a wonderful job with the kids. What we need is someone to help coordinate activities for adults and report to council. Please talk to Bridget Sproul or Pastor John if interested.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



RALLY DAY POTLUCK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

COLLECTION - Sunday September 8th is Rally Day – the official start of our Fall and Winter church season!

We always begin by giving back to the larger community, by providing much-needed school supplies for students at underserved schools. Sunday's service will be followed by a Potluck Dinner in Pilgrim Hall. We ask that you participate by bringing a **Main Dish** (lasagna,

casserole, etc) or a **Dessert** to share AND some school supplies, which will be taken to a school in need.

NOTE: Suggested school supplies are: notebook paper, binders, notebooks, rulers, pencils, erasers, crayons, pencil pouches, glue sticks, book bags/backpacks, and anything you think would be appropriate.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

SEPTEMBER MDA UPDATE: Hello again! Election Day draws near. Here are some of the September Moms Demand Action events you can participate in to help elect Gun Sense candidates:

- Take action now by sending letters to your representatives. Check here: <https://momsdemandaction.org/act/>
- **Thursday, September 5, 8:00:** Ohio Statewide-Training: Tabling Basics
- **Thursday, September 12, noon:** OH Statewide Lunch & Learn: How to Canvass / Virtual.
- **Thursday, September 19 noon AND 7pm:** Ohio Statewide Moms 101, virtual meetings.

These are just a few of the events - you can sign up for all of the above and also find more events at:

<https://momsdemandaction.org/events/>



SPIRITUAL LIFE



ADULT CHOIR 2024-25 - Our choir will begin weekly rehearsals starting on Thursday, September 5, from 7:00-8:15. The music we practice together is an excellent way to prepare spiritually for Sunday services. Rehearsals are filled with good humor, fellowship, and affirmation. Vocal recordings are provided on a regular basis to help with the learning process. New members are most welcome and encouraged to participate. Please consider checking us out any time! Contact Dave Debick with any questions or concerns.

SEASONAL CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS 2024 - If you enjoy singing in a group setting, but don't have time to commit to regular choir, seasonal choir provides a great opportunity to join the choir for just a few weeks, as we prepare for our annual Christmas program. This



year's cantata is scheduled on Sunday, December 15th, at our regular 10 AM service. Seasonal choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday October 10 from 7:00-7:45 PM and will run weekly until Dec. 15. Recordings are provided for each vocal part to help everyone learn their parts. High school students are welcome to participate. Dave is still choosing this year's music, so stay tuned for further information! Feel free to contact him with any questions.

Advent Devotional



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - Yes, you read that correctly! The Spiritual Life Ministry is looking ahead to one of our most beloved BUCC traditions, the annual congregation-written Advent Devotional. In order to compile the booklet, we will begin to offer scriptures for your selection on September 15 after worship.

Simply choose one of the pre-selected scriptures that speaks to you, and tell us why in a couple of paragraphs. Many people also choose to close with a one or two sentence prayer. We especially love to hear how it connects you and/or your family to a certain time or place. You'll be amazed by the stories your fellow members have to share! If you cannot attend worship in person, simply call Anne in the office during the week and she can help you out.

We are asking for your devotion to be submitted to the office at BUCCOffice23@gmail.com by OCTOBER 31.

PLEASE consider being a part of this awesome ministry.



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

Joanne	Cook	September 03
Mark	Lehman	September 11
Kathleen	Smith	September 11
Maya	MacKeigan-Moore	September 12
Jill	Zedan	September 12
Rebecca	Anderson	September 14
Jane	Cribbs	September 15
Natalie	Corrado	September 17
Holden	Esser	September 17
Nancy	Stella	September 22
David	Debick	September 26

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



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., SEPTEMBER 2

LABOR DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., SEPTEMBER 3

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

Wed., SEPTEMBER 4

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm SCR

Thu., SEPTEMBER 5

7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 6

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 7

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

RALLY DAY!

10am Worship Service
11:15 Potluck

Mon., SEPTEMBER 9

7pm Facilities

Tue., SEPTEMBER 10

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

Wed., SEPTEMBER 11

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., SEPTEMBER 12

7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 13

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 14

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

PILLAR DEADLINE
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 16

Tue., SEPTEMBER 17

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

Wed., SEPTEMBER 18

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., SEPTEMBER 19

7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 20

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 21

4pm CSB

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 23

Tue., SEPTEMBER 24

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

Wed., SEPTEMBER 25

11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Stewardship

Thu., SEPTEMBER 26

7 pm Choir Practice

Fri., SEPTEMBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPTEMBER 28

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPTEMBER 30



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Early Usher: Evelyn Seager
Late Usher: Bill Witt
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Bread: Caroline Chandler
Counters: Marge Culver
Lori Molesky
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Snack: Lois Lorenzo
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Flowers: Katie MacKeigan King
Bread: Karen King
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Early Usher: Evelyn Seager
Late Usher: Bryan Chaikin
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: Jenn Elting
Flowers: Jenn Elting
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

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

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

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

Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: TBD
Snack: Jenn Elting
Setup/Serve: Jenn Elting
Cleanup: TBD

The Pillar

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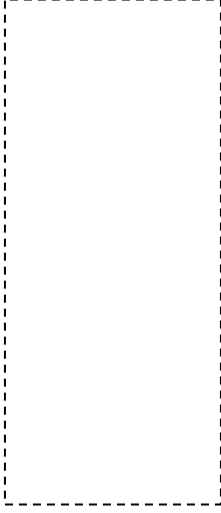
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FIRST CLASS



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Brecksville United Church of Christ