

THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 2025



Photo by: Lori Molesky

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

An Invitation
Sherrill Witt – Moderator

None of us knows what the near or long-term future holds, but we can gain clarity within ourselves about how we want to show up. I want to show up as a person of peace, love and empathy, but not alone. I want to be in partnership with others to create that caring circle—not a circle that puts up a wall to keep others out, but one that welcomes others in, no matter what happens. When you love others, then you find the God in you. – adapted from writings by Fr. Richard Rohr (edited)

Well, here we are, mid-summer 2025. It has been a long and winding road through loss and disappointment, anger, sadness, grief, caring, love, support, compassion, and just about any other emotion you can think of over the last 18 months. But we are still here – the Brecksville United Church of Christ.

There were times we felt so in darkness that we could not see the light – but remember, sometimes you need cracks to let the light in!

As we begin to look forward I have good news to reflect upon:

We have hired Rob Keshock as our new Director of Music, effective August 1 st . Rob lives in Walton Hills and has an extensive background in music education and performance as well as arrangement. He likes to work in all music genres from classical and sacred to contemporary Christian and is tech savvy. He has served many churches in our area over the years as Music Director and has been helping out BUCC since April. We are most excited to have him on our staff and know that he will help us continue our beloved music traditions as well as bring new ideas to our well-respected music program.

Welcome Rob!

We are very close to choosing an interim minister, who we anticipate having for 12-18 months while we search for a new Settled Pastor. We were given multiple interim names by Living Water and were informed that there is a shortage of clergy right now. Several Council members conducted interviews with the

available interim candidates, and we hope to have a contract in place with one of the individuals within the next 2 weeks.

They will most likely start sometime after Labor Day due to prior family commitments. The goal right now is to have someone in place who is experienced in helping churches return to their missions and ministry both spiritually and operationally.

We estimate 3-4 months for this, which would take us through the holiday season before we form the Search Committee. We will give full information on the Interim to you as soon as we can.

Meanwhile, we are hoping to have Rev. David Loar and Rev. Tom Gerstenlauer continue to serve as our Pulpit Supply ministers until the Interim is available. They are friends, they are fun, and their messages are timeless and thought provoking. We are working out their schedules even as I am typing this article.

I also cannot say enough about Miranda Lacefield, our incredibly wonderful Office Manager. She is bright, articulate, calm, collected, resourceful and knowledgeable about UCC from top to bottom. She and her husband, Andy, ran the UCC Camp for many years. She has singlehandedly been choosing everything we have needed each week for the Bulletin by using the lectionary, online material, old Bulletins, etc. She has done an incredible job and if you can send her a little note/email of thanks I am sure she would appreciate it. She is in the office Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-1:30 PM if you ever want to stop by. (Because she and her husband, Andy, come from clergy backgrounds it is sweet to note that her daughter Charlotte runs mini church services when she is playing with her dolls and stuffed animals!)

There are brighter days ahead and I am extending An Invitation to all of BUCC's Members to return to us with your joy, your love, your compassion, your wisdom, your forgiveness and your welcoming hearts as we keep our light flowing forth from our Church on the Square.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

☘ Nursery Attendant Needed ☘

As Amelia Elting prepares to leave for college in mid-August, we are seeking a caring and dependable individual to serve as our Nursery Attendant.

Position Overview:

The Nursery Attendant will provide safe, secure, and nurturing care for children ages 0 through 4 years old during church services and events. This individual may also assist Miss Mindy in the classroom as needed. The position pays \$50/Sunday. The hours are 9:45 am until the children are secured by their parents after the service.

Qualifications:

Experience caring for children ages 0–4

At least 18 years of age (we will consider current church members 16 and older)

CPR certification for infants and children is preferred

A heart for ministry and a love for children

If you or someone you know is interested in this important ministry role, please contact the church office at BUCCoffice23@gmail.com or 440-526-4364 or speak with a member of the Christian Education Committee.

Let's continue to provide a warm and welcoming space for our youngest members to grow in God's love!



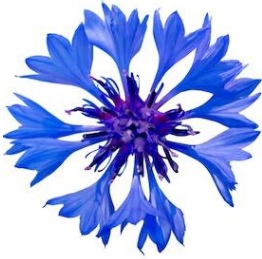
It's already that time again! As usual we are collecting school supplies to help supplement those in need. Items to consider bringing in -- pencils, notebooks, folders, backpacks, art supplies, kleenex, wipes... Please start bringing them in as early as possible -- we're getting a jump on our Rally Day donations this year!



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

Michael	Corrado	August 02
Courtnei	Began	August 08
Kathy	Ford	August 09
Beth	Rehling	August 11
Dave	Bernard	August 15
Bryan	Chaikin	August 15
Carol	Miller	August 16
Bettina	Ortiz	August 18

****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 2024

Fri., AUGUST 1
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., AUGUST 2

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3
10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., AUGUST 4
7pm Facilities

Tue., AUGUST 5
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Spiritual Life

Wed., AUGUST 6
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
4pm Stewardship

Thu., AUGUST 7

Fri., AUGUST 8
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., AUGUST 9

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
10am Worship Service

Mon., AUGUST 11

Tue., AUGUST 12
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., AUGUST 13
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., AUGUST 14
10:30am Call to Care

Fri., AUGUST 15
OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

Sat., AUGUST 16

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
10am Worship in Park
11:15am Church Picnic

Mon., AUGUST 18

Tue., AUGUST 19
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7pm Communications & Outreach

Wed., AUGUST 20
11am Mindfulness & Meditation

Thu., AUGUST 21

Fri., AUGUST 22
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., AUGUST 23

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
10am Worship Service

Mon., AUGUST 25

Tue., AUGUST 26
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., AUGUST 27
11am Mindfulness & Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., AUGUST 28

Fri., AUGUST 29
OFFICE CLOSED
6:30pm Brecksville Squares

Sat., AUGUST 30
8:30am Akron AA literature stuffing

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
10am Worship Service

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

AUGUST 3, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: Sue Stenzel
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Sue Stenzel
TBD
A/V: TBD
Communion
Bread: David Pastor

AUGUST 10, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: Sue Stenzel
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Sue Stenzel
TBD
A/V: TBD

AUGUST 17, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: TBD
TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen

AUGUST 24, 2025

Early Usher: TBD
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Counters: Sue Stenzel
TBD
A/V: TBD

AUGUST 31, 2025

Early Usher: Diane Gressley
Late Usher: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Sue Stenzel
TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen

The Pillar

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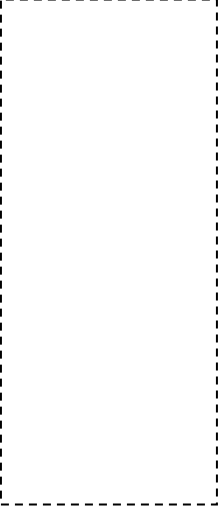
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FIRST CLASS



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