



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2021



Jesus Looking through a Lattice with Sunflowers c.1886-96;
Tissot, James Jacques Joseph (1836-1902)

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

A Balm in Gilead?

"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved. Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people. O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears. I would weep day and night for the slain of my people." - Jeremiah 8:20-9:1

As the Assyrian Empire declined at the end of the 7th century BC, a power struggle between Egypt and Babylon came to a head over the spoils. Judah at first sided with the Egyptians, then switched to the Babylonians, then revolted against the Babylonians. Before it was over, the leaders of Judah, and many of the people, were transported to exile as prisoners of war in Babylon, leaving behind a desolated Jerusalem and Solomon's once great Temple despoiled and in ruins.

Before the final destruction, the prophet Jeremiah continually called on the people to return to God, and on the leaders to stop playing power politics. But alas, the people refused to listen. The leaders continued on their own course. Even the prophets and priests were caught up in greed and telling lies. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace." (v. 8:11)

Seeing the people struggling, the prophet asks, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" It's a rhetorical question. Everyone knows there is balm in Gilead. Gilead was an area east of the Jordan river, whose balm eased pain and bound up wounds. If people would simply use what was available to them, their pain could be eased. In Jeremiah's prophecy, the balm that's available to stop the pain is the balm of returning to God. The people refuse the healing remedy that is offered, and so their destruction continued apace. They could have ended their pain and suffering, but they chose not to.

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

Jeremiah sees the destruction that is coming, and as that long-ago summer wound down, he spoke a lament for his people. The wider context shows that God is speaking this lament along with Jeremiah. Both God and prophet mourn the pain and death of God's people, who refuse to seek the relief that is available.

As our summer of 2021 comes to a close, and Covid still rages in America, I thought of this verse and lamented for our country. The harvest is passed, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. I think God is weeping for us.

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



- 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, or by calling **216-644-2784**, if you have any questions.

FACILITIES

THE PARKING LOT is in need of repairs. It has been recommended that we contact the city engineer, to help determine the best course of action that will address the drainage and flooding issues we are having. We will be getting 3 bids for needed repairs.

Plumbing repairs have been done to remove a leaking drum trap in the upstairs bathroom, at a cost of \$165.00. This issue also required part of the lower ceiling to be removed, which was then repaired for only the cost of materials - \$41.08.

Finally, we have negotiated a new lease agreement with A Special Wish Cleveland. They are currently renting Rooms 1-3, and have signed a new two year lease.

FINANCE

AIR CONDITIONING - The amount of money received thus far, to offset the expense of the 3 new air conditioner units (\$14,000), is \$7,580. Thanks to all who have contributed!

OCWM

ALL ARE WELCOME to join us for our next OCWM meeting on Sunday, September 12th. We will meet after the service (around 11 or so), in the BUCC Parlor. We have some exciting events to plan for the remainder of the year and encourage anyone interested in outreach work to attend the meeting. If you have any questions, please reach out to one (or both!) of the committee co-chairs: **Kate Klonowski** at keightykay@gmail.com, or **Chad Sproul** at chad2459@yahoo.com. Thanks and we hope to see you then!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

FALL 2021 MUSIC MINISTRY – After ~15 months of hibernation, our music program at Brecksville UCC is slowly coming back to life! Many thanks to the volunteer singers and instrumentalists who have been presenting musical offerings since mid-June.

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.

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.

(continued on next page)

SPIRITUAL LIFE

FALL 2021 MUSIC MINISTRY *(continued)*

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.

Don't hesitate to contact **Dave** with any questions at: **buccmusic23@gmail.com**, or see directory for his cell phone number.

PARTICIPANT ROLES – In case it isn't obvious, it "takes a village" to run a service! The following are the participant roles that need to be filled every Sunday:

Acolyte, A/V, Counters, Greeter, Head Usher, Peace Candle, Sound & Ushers

Since reopening, there have been several Sundays where we found ourselves scrambling to fill participant roles. If you'd like to help but aren't sure about what each role entails, there's a new link on our website that addresses those questions. Here's how to find it: Go to the **BUCC website** and move your mouse pointer over the drop down arrow to the right of the word "**Worship**" (on teal bar at the top of the page). After the **drop down menu** opens, click on the option that reads "**Participant Roles in our BUCC Sunday Worship**".

After you've had a chance to read the descriptions, please contact the **church office** at **440-526-4364**, with the roles and dates of your choosing. Also, please don't hesitate to contact the office with any additional questions or concerns – thank you!

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

9/5 Val & Evelyn Duffy
9/12 Tia Began

9/19 Dorie Gabor
9/26 Sue Stenzel

SPECIAL NOTES:

From Rob Grow –

“Thank you all very much for the very nice card that you just sent me. I appreciate your support. You are all very kind.

Thank you,

Rob”

From Joy Garapic –

“In July, I was contacted by Jeanne Brumbaugh Lyons, who had a painting that she thought the church would like to have. We met at the church, and as we were going through the Narthex, she spotted the water color hanging over the memorial table. It was done by the same artist as the oil painting she has given us!

The artist is Ruth E. Sietman (nee Mayer), 1914-2002. She was an award-winning artist who graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art. She was known for marine pictures, landscapes and flowers, as well as being an illustrator. Her father was a well-known naturalist and a nature photographer. Her husband was Herbert, and she had two children, a son Karl and a daughter Reggie.

Jeanne said her family worshipped here years ago, and her class was one of the last to attend the high school when it was next door. She remembers Nancianne Martin, Dot Bailey and Stu Bailey as her teachers.

Facilities will be hanging this treasure soon.”



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

September 1:	Phyllis Hassler Dan Renovetz
September 3:	Joanne Cook
September 6:	Erika Kolar
September 7:	Betty Kaul
September 10:	Gabriella Gagliano
September 11:	Mark Lehman Kathy Smith
September 12:	Jill Zedan
September 14:	Rebecca Anderson Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer
September 15:	Jane Cribbs
September 17:	Natalie Corrado Valerie Tyler Holden Paul Esser
September 22:	Nancy Stella
September 23:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg Matt Wolbert
September 26:	David Debick
September 28:	Jayden Kolar

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



Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2021

Wed., SEPT. 1

Thu., SEPT. 2

Fri., SEPT. 3
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPT. 4

Sunday, SEPT. 5
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPT. 6


Tue., SEPT. 7
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., SEPT. 8
7:15pm Council Meeting

Thu., SEPT. 9
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPT. 10
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPT. 11

Sunday, SEPT. 12
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPT. 13

Tue., SEPT. 14
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., SEPT. 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Thu., SEPT. 16
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPT. 17
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPT. 18

Sunday, SEPT. 19
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPT. 20

Tue., SEPT. 21
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., SEPT. 22

Thu., SEPT. 23
7pm Choir

Fri., SEPT. 24
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., SEPT. 25

Sunday, SEPT. 26
10am Worship Service

Mon., SEPT. 27
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Tue., SEPT. 28
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., SEPT. 29

Thu., SEPT. 30
7pm Choir



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Lay Reader: TBD
Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Sound: TBD
Comms Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Val Duffy
Evelyn Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Lay Reader: TBD
Head Usher: Sue Maier
Jon Thompson
Ushers: Kate Klonowski
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Sound: TBD
Comms Grtr: Ann Kelley
Flowers: Tia Began
Counters: TBD
TBD

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Lay Reader: TBD
Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Sound: TBD
Comms Grtr: Peg Duffy
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Counters: Jim Duffy
TBD

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Lay Reader: TBD
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Sound: TBD
Comms Grtr: Ann Kelley
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Counters: TBD
TBD

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

