



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 2022



Watercolor and ink portrait of Mary, mother of Jesus, by Sarah Beth Baca.

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Here's a joke that's been around a while...

Question: How many church people does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Change? In church?! Don't change anything!

Brecksville UCC demonstrates a refreshing flexibility and willingness to adapt to change. I try to change as little as possible, while I learn your traditions and expectations. I see this as a way for me to show respect for you and the faith journey you have travelled. But you keep telling me the refreshing tagline, "There's no wrong way." Thanks! I appreciate that more than you know!

The church is in a time of change worldwide. Rev. Nayiri Karjian is the General Minister of the UCC Living Water Association. Many of you met her on February 20th, as she led our service of installation of a new pastor. Recently she wrote, "Pastors and congregations are tired and drained. Surely, God does not want us exhausted, spending our energy and gifts on working for that which is dying. I believe God wants us to work for that which has life, breath, spirit and possibility. I believe God is doing a new thing, rebirthing the church, changing its form, creating something new, for that is who God is and what God does."

Rev. Karjian shows us that it is not the church that is dying, but one old, institutional form that is dying off, while the church is reborn into a new form. This chrysalis, this transitional time can be scary and stressful. Like it or not, we are changing.

Such change inevitably results in conflict. I think conflict has a nasty reputation. But conflict is neither good nor bad; conflict indicates that some kind of change is needed. Conflict without healthy communication can lead to disastrous outcomes, even war. But conflict with healthy communication can lead to transformational growth, for example, civil rights.

Through times of change, it is vitally important to communicate well. The worst thing we can do is to shut down communications. Did something at church inspire you or bother you? Communication is essential to building understanding. Not pleased with how the communication went? Communication is essential again, all with healthy boundaries, honesty, and kindness.

(continued)

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

Our Staff/Congregation Relations Ministry (SCR) facilitates such communication. Church Council has decided to follow a UCC manual called ***A Sure Foundation***. It says, "Conflict in a congregation is inevitable. Matthew 18:15-20 provides a healthy format for addressing such concerns, encouraging direct communication." I would be happy to get you a copy of the complete 11-page document. Our SCR has condensed it to a one-page guide for our use. Here are a few of those tips for Healthy Communication Procedures:

- If you have a concern about the pastor, staff member or congregation, speak with the person directly first. Most church concerns are quickly defused with a good heart to heart talk.
- If that doesn't help, and the issue matters to you, contact a member of the SCR.
- Anonymous concerns are not accepted, except in unusual circumstances of a legitimate threat.
- All are encouraged to express their feelings with integrity and listen with empathy.

The worst thing we can do with any feelings of conflict is to stonewall; someone walks away upset because the other person could not read their minds. Such communication shutdowns are all too common; most of us have experienced that kind of toxicity at some point.

The SCR is here to facilitate better communication. Especially in times of growth and change, such healthy communication is essential. Please remember to use the SCR as a helpful resource for building strong relationships between the church staff and congregation.

-- Peace and blessing, Pastor John



*FROM THE MINISTRIES
OF BUCC*

FINANCE

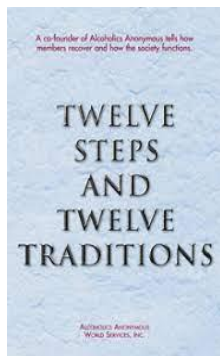
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ, within Wider Church Ministries. Our members donated \$1,570 to the cause.

UKRAINE – The total Ukraine offering sent to the United Church of Christ during the last two months totaled a whopping \$9,493. This was in part due to the generosity of several members, along with other members who donated directly to the UCC.

OCWM

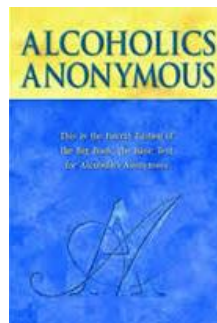
SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAYS – As of 4/17 (Easter), BUCC has returned to “Sock It to Me Sundays” and the donations have already started to come in! Please drop off new or lightly worn socks in the tote located on the bench, just inside the parking lot doors. Elizabeth Gadus and Kate Klonowski will be collecting through the last weekend of May (5/29), after which they will distribute your donations to local homeless shelters. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

OCWM (continued)



EDNA HOUSE – Brecksville UCC and Our Church's Wider Mission are thrilled to be supporting Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio, once again. Edna House was founded in 2004, with a mission to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. The only requirement for admission is the desire to get sober, regardless of their ability to pay. They are independent of government funding, so they are sustained solely through donations from individuals and businesses. Director Jennifer Lasky, her staff and residents are extremely grateful for all the help we give them.

In addition to cash donations, their need at this time is copies of two Alcoholics Anonymous books: *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and even more importantly, *Alcoholics Anonymous: The Big Book (Fourth Edition)*. These books are available on Amazon and can be sent directly to Jen Lasky at: Edna House, 2007 West 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.



DONATED FOOD ITEMS – The food items donated by BUCC members and friends have been arriving in the basket next to the office door. A little more than 200 pounds have been received since January of this year.

There have been questions about how these donations get to those in need - Is it elves? Is it Uber? Of course not - the elves are hunkered down like the rest of us!

What really happens is that a BUCC member takes the items home, and the next day they get delivered to a nearby Salvation Army food kitchen. The Salvation Army folks are always very thankful to receive the items – our heartfelt thanks to all those who've donated! We would like to encourage others to join in the fun and games of BUCC's food donation effort. The Salvation Army is not requesting specific items at this time, but many items are needed.

STAFF/CONGREGATION RELATIONS

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE – At the recommendation of the SCR Ministry, Council has committed to follow the healthy communication processes outlined in the UCC Booklet, **A Sure Foundation**. This means that if a member has a concern involving the pastor, a staff member or another member of the congregation, the SCR Ministry requests that you take the following steps:

1. Speak to the person directly. If you prefer, you may request that the pastor (if not involved in the concern) or a SCR ministry member join that conversation, as a facilitator or holy witness. If you are not comfortable speaking to the person directly and the issue is important, start with Step 2.
2. If you have already spoken to the person but are dissatisfied, you may contact the Pastor (if not involved in the concern) or the SCR Ministry for further assistance with further communications.
3. Put your concern in writing, date and sign it. Be specific and provide examples if possible. Forward your written concern to the Pastor (if not involved in the concern) or the Chairperson of the SCR Ministry. SCR will not accept anonymous concerns nor petitions from groups. You will receive a written acknowledgement verifying receipt of your concern and confirming that it will be discussed at the next SCR meeting, if not before.
3. The SCR ministry and the Pastor will decide on a course of action if necessary. You will be notified at the conclusion of the process and informed of the outcome.

The above procedure can be located on the BUCC website under "Ministries" > "Staff Congregation Relations".

NURSERY – See "Spiritual Life" section (following).

SPIRITUAL LIFE

THANK YOU – The Spiritual Life Ministry would like to thank those who have SIGNED UP and SERVED for the various Sunday morning volunteer duties - YOU make BUCC the place we love to gather and worship on Sundays. As some of our steadfast elders begin to (deservedly) step back from decades-held roles, it's only right that those of us who've benefitted from their dedication take on a more active role.

Please watch the "Head Usher Training Video" on our Facebook page. You can also access it through our website, **brecksvilleUCC.org**, by selecting "Worship" at the top of the page, then "Participant Rolls" in the dropdown box. Then scroll down for the link to the video - we encourage you to take a leap of faith and sign up to be Head Usher! Shadowing and job sharing on Sundays are also options. The more people who know how to be a Head Usher, the less "Head Ushering" for everyone!

Thanks again - we are so grateful to each and every one of you!

– Betsey Wilson, Spiritual Life Ministry Chair

NURSERY – After a long closure of the nursery due to the COVID pandemic, Council has approved the reopening and staffing of the nursery. The nursery has been thoroughly cleaned and is ready to greet our little ones. Before the Staff Congregation Relations Ministry fills the Church Nursery Attendant position with a permanent employee, we would like to assess the need. We are looking for several adult volunteers who would be willing to staff the nursery one to two Sundays over a two-month period. We would ask that the volunteer arrive 10-15 minutes before the service. If there are no children in the nursery after the Children's Sermon concludes, the volunteer is free to leave the nursery. You may sign up using Breeze or you may contact Evie Novak of the SCR Ministry or the church office if you are willing to help out.

SPIRITUAL LIFE *(continued)*

BUCC SUMMER MUSIC MINISTRY – During the warm summer months, our choirs and instrumental groups take a well-deserved break. We are looking for volunteers to either sing or play their instruments for musical offerings on Sundays, starting June 12th and going through September 4th. Dave Debick will be recruiting volunteers during the after-service coffee hours throughout May. He will gladly help you find music and rehearse before you present your music at a service. Please know that our congregation is one of the most affirming you will ever find, so there's no need to be nervous! If you've never sung or played at BUCC before, let Dave know that you're interested, and he will schedule you for a Sunday. High school students are welcome to participate!

STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PENTECOST & BUTTERFLIES – The Stewardship ministry is inviting children and adults of all ages and abilities, to help prepare for our Pentecost Sunday butterfly release by adopting a caterpillar (or two), so you can foster them into painted lady butterflies in your homes. On a couple Sundays in May, we will be handing out kits with caterpillars in individual cups along with small emergence containers and detailed instructions on how to help the caterpillars metamorphosize into butterflies. Then you can bring them back to church on Sunday June 5, and help with our butterfly release. Don't worry if you've never done this before, our kits are easy to use and we can provide any advice you will need. We hope you will participate in this interesting and inspirational activity.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FLOWERS – The following is the schedule of member volunteers for the month of May:

5/01	Maureen Stanley	5/22	Carole Snider
5/08	Tia Began	5/29	Sue Stenzel
5/15	Julie Bernard		



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

Gina Cook	May 12
Terry Heiman	May 18
James Tyler	May 21
David Ritchey	May 26
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 2022

Sunday, MAY 1

10am Worship Service

Mon., MAY 2

Tue., MAY 3

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., MAY 4

Thu., MAY 5

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., MAY 6

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 7

Sunday, MAY 8

10am Worship Service

Mon., MAY 9

Tue., MAY 10

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., MAY 11

Thu., MAY 12

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., MAY 13

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 14

Sunday, MAY 15

PILLAR DEADLINE
10am Worship Service

Mon., MAY 16

Tue., MAY 17

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., MAY 18

Thu., MAY 19

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., MAY 20

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 21

Sunday, MAY 22

10am Worship Service

Mon., MAY 23

Tue., MAY 24

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., MAY 25

Thu., MAY 26

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., MAY 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 28

Sunday, MAY 29

10am Worship Service

Mon., MAY 30

Tue., MAY 31

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MAY 1, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Dave Bernard
Nursery: Val Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Snack: Diane Gressley
Jon Thompson
Setup/Serve: Alison Colbert
TBD
Cleanup: Dave Bernard
Caroline Chandler
Bob Chandler

MAY 8, 2022

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Greeter: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Val Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Heidi Spangler
TBD
Setup/Serve: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt
Cleanup: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt

MAY 15, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Kathy Smith
Lay Reader: Carol Miller
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: Diane Gressley
TBD
Setup/Serve: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt
Cleanup: Sherrill Witt
Bill Witt

MAY 22, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Carole Snider
Snack: Kathy Ford
Leroy Ford
Setup/Serve: Kathy Ford
Sue Stenzel
Cleanup: Leroy Ford
Sue Stenzel

MAY 29, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Diane Gressley
TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: Sherrill Witt
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD

Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Snack: Diane Gressley
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD

The Pillar

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Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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FIRST CLASS

