

THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MAY 2021



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3: 8

Pentecost is just going to sneak itself into May this year, coming on the 31st. The Feast of Pentecost has roots in the Old Testament, but you won't find it there if you do a word search. That's because Pentecost is the Greek word for the festival. To the people of Israel, the feast was called the Feast of the Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Before Pentecost could happen, there was the Feast of First Fruits, which celebrated the beginning of the barley harvest. From the beginning of the feast of First Fruits you counted off 50 days, and you got to the Feast of the Harvest, celebrating the beginning of the wheat harvest. So barley to wheat was 50 days. 50 days is just over 7 weeks, or a week of weeks, so it was sometimes called the Festival of Weeks. Greek Pentecost means 50, so that works, too. So are we celebrating the wheat harvest when we celebrate Pentecost in the church? No! It was, of course, on the day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit first came upon the church, kind of like if the Spirit had first come on Thanksgiving: it came on an existing holiday, and changed its meaning forever. Acts 2 tells us that the disciples heard a sound like the blowing of a violent wind, and then the Spirit fell on them like tongues of fire.

There's that word, 'wind', again, associated with the Holy Spirit. Wind was and is somewhat mysterious. We can feel the wind, we can watch the effects of the wind, we can even power our homes with the wind, but we can't see the wind. We can't force a gust to blow when we want. Just try taking a kid outside with their new kite and see if you can get a breath of wind then! No, the wind comes and goes as it pleases. It is real, but invisible, powerful but not controlled.

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Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

That's how the early church perceived the Holy Spirit: the Spirit was a reality in their lives, they could see the Spirit's effects on people, experience the gifts of the Spirit, but they couldn't control the Spirit. The Spirit came and went as it pleased.

That's still the way of the Spirit. Sometimes you just know that there's something special going on at church, and other times it feels more ordinary. Sometimes you feel inspired in life, and sometimes you just do what you can and do what you must. The Spirit blows where and when it will, but when it blows on you, it's spectacular. So let us get ready through the month of May to celebrate the Spirit at Pentecost once more, and call on the Spirit to make itself known to us in power once again.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



CE

LENTEN FUNDRAISER – The CE kids’ Lenten project (handpainted/colored key chains) will be available during **THIS** week’s “Still Speaking Events” (details in next Announcement). All donations will go to the Cleveland Foodbank. If you’re interested in supporting this effort, but not able to attend a parking lot meeting, call **Anne** at **440-526-4364** to make other arrangements. Our kids have been working on these since February, so please consider supporting their fundraiser - thank you!

OCWM

EDNA HOUSE - Once again we are collecting donations for Edna House; a place for women to recover from drug and alcohol addiction, learn life skills and maintain a lifetime of sobriety. You can learn more about them and their mission on their website: **<https://ednahouse.org>**

You may make monetary donations through BUCC (by check—be sure to include “Edna House” in the memo) or directly through their donate links on their webpage: **<https://ednahouse.org/donate>**

If you wish to donate specific items, women’s clothing and shoes, and food are always needed. Clothing is distributed according to the current season. They do not mend, repair, or launder donations. They kindly ask that your donations are clean and in season. Items may be brought to the church and left in the back hallway with a note, or you can arrange a pickup through **Kate Klowski** by calling/texting **(216) 534-3498** or email at **keightykay@gmail.com**. Physical donations will be delivered the week following Mother’s Day (May 9th).

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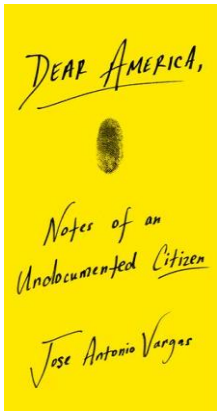
OCWM & EDNA HOUSE (continued) –

Current Needs:

- Big Books (Alcoholics Anonymous) and 12 x 12 Books (no paperback novels, please)
- Cleaning products such as Murphy's Oil Soap, floor cleaner, bathroom cleaner, bleach, sponges, spray bottles, mops, and large black garbage bags
- Canned food, condiments, and non perishable snacks, coffee, creamer and sugar
- Paper towels, toilet paper, and tampons
- Gift Cards, Bus Passes, Postage Stamps
- Flash drives, resume and copier paper for Job Development

****Please note: They can not accept donations of luggage, bedding or furniture***

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity!



OCWM / CE

SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB: We are still reading ***Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen***, by Jose Antonio Vargas. We will resume meeting on Thursday (May 6th) at 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Please contact **Kate Klonowski** for chapter assignments – call or text **(216) 534-3498** or email **keightykay@gmail.com**. All are very welcome!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! With the availability of vaccines to all over 18 just around the corner, we can realistically start to look at opening the church back up for in-person services sometime this year. While we still don't know exactly when or what that will look like, it is fair to assume that there will be more work involved in preparing for, delivering, and cleaning up after each service.

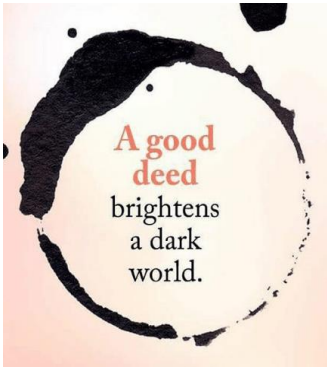
There have also recently been some great ideas for additional special services. Well, the reality is this: **The Spiritual Life Ministry is relatively small right now and this will be quite a challenge***.

We want to be able to provide safe, in-person services, as well as continue to evolve and grow with additional specialty services. The members of the Spiritual Life Ministry are responsible for planning regular and specialty services, scheduling participants (readers, greeters, ushers, etc), setting up the church before each service, filling the role of Head Usher during the service, and cleaning up the sanctuary and narthex after service.

For specialty services, we do things like make the soup and serve for Ash Wednesdays and Maundy Thursdays, get palms for Palm Sunday, etc. If there is any aspect of this type of activity that you are willing and able to do, we could really use your help!

As of yet, no one has volunteered to help. Any amount of help is welcome, as this lack of support will inhibit our ability to do special services. Please reach out to Sue Maier **Eyerienne@aol.com** or Betsey Wilson **betseywilson10@gmail.com**, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry and help make 2021 not just be the year we limp back into in-person services, but the year we come back stronger and better. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP



VIDEO REQUEST: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a “Mission Moment Movie Minute” for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves

helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC!

Send it in to the church email (buccoh@sbcglobal.net), and we'll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!



NOTES

- ✓ From Janet Renovetz:

"Please don't throw out the lovely cards you receive for your birthday, get well wishes, or notes from a friend..... I have a use for them! By removing the front, I recycle it into a birthday card for Heartland Hospice patients.*

During the lockdown these past months, I have used what I had and need more used cards to continue this project. The total going out is approximately 25 cards a month.

Just put them in a bag and leave at the office with my name on it, or call me and I will pick them up.

Many thanks,

Janet Renovetz, 330-467-9357(H) or 330-671-2322(C)

***PLEASE NOTE: AT THIS TIME, I AM NOT ASKING FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS - a decision has not been made yet about Christmas cards.**

- ✓ Also, this note was received after last month's deadline:

"My apologies for my tardy thank you - just 'cuz it's late, my gratitude is no less sincere. When the daffodils arrived, they brought spring into my room and a smile to my heart!

Please pass my heartfelt thanks along - BUCC people are the best! But you knew that. May spring fill your hearts and Easter light your way!

With thanks and love,

Ann Klonowski

216.544.4717"



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

May 2:	Allan Lane
May 5:	Robin Coyer
May 7:	Lindsey Maier
May 10:	Fred Pesek
May 12:	Gina Cook
May 18:	Terry Heiman
May 21:	Danyel Esser James Tyler
May 26:	David Ritchey
May 30:	Lenore Harris Peg Duffy

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



Calendar

MAY 2021

Sat., MAY 1

Sunday, MAY 2

ORTHODOX EASTER

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., MAY 3

Tue., MAY 4

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed. MAY 5

Thu., MAY 6

7pm Book Club

Fri., MAY 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 8

Sunday, MAY 9

Mother's Day

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., MAY 10

Tue., MAY 11

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

WED. MAY 12

7:15pm Council Mtng.

Thu, MAY 13

7pm Book Club



Fri., MAY 14

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, MAY 16

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., MAY 17

Tue., MAY 18

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

WED. MAY 19

Thu, MAY 20

7pm Book Club

Fri., MAY 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 22

Sunday, MAY 23

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., MAY 24

Tue., MAY 25

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

WED. MAY 26

Thu, MAY 27

7pm Book Club

Fri., MAY 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MAY 29

Sunday, MAY 30

PENTECOST

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy

10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., MAY 31



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MAY 2, 2021

Lay Reader: Leroy Ford
Responder: Rose Kaval
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: David Pastor

MAY 9, 2021

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Responder: Julie Bernard
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Jim Duffy

MAY 16, 2021

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Responder: Janet Renovetz
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Sue Maier

MAY 23, 2021

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Responder: Sherrill Witt
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

MAY 30, 2021

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Responder: Kathy Smith
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: David Pastor

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

