



# The Beacon

News from Brightwood Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Summer 2022

After spending some time thinking and praying about the shootings at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, a Church in Laguna Woods, CA and an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas within a week, I needed to respond.

Please note: though I discuss the problem of simply proclaiming our prayers for victims and their families without taking action on their behalf, I don't mean to discount the power of prayer. We must pray for them *as part of our action*, but must also pray for the empathy to listen in love, for humility in our discussions and opinions, and for faithful, wise solutions. Here's as close to wisdom as I've come:

"One of the things I've found most stressful as a Pastor during the pandemic is the pressure to say "the right thing" on social media. I don't feel that same pressure when I'm sitting with folks in their fear, suffering, or grief. The Holy Spirit takes the power of presence in those moments and does the work for me, not true for social media.

I avoid making "statements", not because I'm afraid of offending people, but because I don't believe it is worth saying things in a way that they won't be heard. Healing, teaching, and transformation are one-on-one work, especially in our deeply divided country, where people so quickly jump to conclusions about your opinions and scroll quickly on. (*cont'd pg 2*)

Brightwood Christian Church  
5044 W. Library Ave.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

I think it is why you see so many "thoughts and prayers" comments. Saying that you are thinking of someone and praying for them is true and can't be misconstrued. **But it is clearly not enough**, and people are tired of hearing it. We feel the truth in the words of Miroslav Volf, "*There is something deeply hypocritical about praying for a problem you are unwilling to resolve.*"

The other dangerous temptation we have as Christians is to imply that it is the lack of Christian faith that leads to these moments of terror. Those folks should learn more about Christian History. They'll quickly learn that a passionate belief in Jesus doesn't correlate at all to non-violence or justice. Ask a waitress after the Sunday afternoon rush and you'll find out it doesn't even correlate to patience or common courtesy.

I don't have the answer. There likely isn't ONE answer to the violence that we are so heartsick about and exhausted by. If there is one spiritual discipline that might be of use to the world in preventing violence, I believe it is empathy.

**The suffering of others should matter to us.** We must have emotional imagination enough to think about how something makes another person feel and, even better, to ask. And we must model that for our children in our conversations and behavior toward one another in the wake of yet another nightmare.

At its heart, violence is one person or group of people who have decided that what they want, either to accomplish, to gain, or to feel, is more important than the suffering and death of another person. *We aren't real to each other anymore (cont'd pg 3).*



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### **Our Mission**

Brightwood Christian Church is a welcoming community of Christians Seeking to grow in faith and service.

### **Our Staff and Contacts**

#### **Minister**

Rev. Jana Quisenberry  
cell: 412-302-8920  
email: [jquisenberry@hotmail.com](mailto:jquisenberry@hotmail.com)

#### **Music Director**

Mickey Campbell

#### **Organist**

Lisa Powell

#### **Online Giving**

on the Givelify App or at [brightwoodchurch.org](http://brightwoodchurch.org)

#### **Email**

[brightwoodchristian@gmail.com](mailto:brightwoodchristian@gmail.com)

#### **Website**

[www.brightwoodchurch.org](http://www.brightwoodchurch.org)

#### **Facebook**

[facebook.com/brightwoodchurch](https://facebook.com/brightwoodchurch)

#### **Youtube**

Pastor Jana Q at Brightwood

#### **Twitter**

[twitter.com/PastorJQ](https://twitter.com/PastorJQ)

#### **Instagram**

[brightwoodchristian](https://brightwoodchristian)

### May Birthdays

1-DJ Berg  
5-Carrie Lombardi  
12-Janet McCuean  
14-Barb Morgan  
16-Luciano Francica  
22-Jesse Orrick  
31- Deb McCuean

### May Anniversaries

14- The Fillippas  
24- The Bergs  
30- The Updegroves

### June Birthdays

1-Lori Fillippa  
2-Maria Beattie  
6-Ralph Henning  
Pastor Jana  
14-Johnna Mansuetto  
17-Rob Browell  
25- Justin Fillippa

### June Anniversaries

3- The Weisses  
7-The McAnultys  
28- Don and Jan McCuean



### July Birthdays

7- Jacob Beattie  
9-Cullen Browell  
13-Dorothy Nebel,  
Martha Kamerer  
15- Pam Bruno  
23- Dominic Francica  
25-Tim Yellig  
30- Vicki Lawson  
31- Charlotte Cain

### July Anniversaries

6- The Brunos  
13- The Quisenberrys  
17-Rob and Leslie Browell  
24-The Orricks

### August Birthdays

5- Avery Orrick  
6- Vicky McAnulty  
10-Jason Lombardi  
14-Alsion Beattie  
Robert Beattie  
22- Joseph Lombardi  
Joan Hogden  
25-Rick Bruno  
26- Heather McCuean  
30- Joseph Lombardi  
31-Scott Beattie

### August Anniversaries

2- The Jacksons

Sometimes, people show that with a weapon, but we are all guilty of it almost every day. In our culture, it is glorified and rewarded.

The Jewish tradition has a phrase used during periods of mourning. After saying the name of a woman who has died, for instance, you might hear, "Yehi zichra baruch" (May her memory be a blessing). In a 2019 rally against domestic violence in Israel, Rachel Stommel heard a new phrase that seemed much more fitting and has been used with increasing frequency since, "Yehi zichra mahapecha" (**May her memory be a revolution.**)

I think that is what I crave most in the light of this violence, in the echoes of the reading of so many names lost to senseless violence: a revolution of empathy, one that would impact every system we share, every policy we shape, every prayer we say, every expectation we have of one another, every word we speak.

Blessings until we meet again, *Pastor Jana*

**ps...**

My mother-in-law will have surgery on June 6th, so we will be away from the 3rd through the 9th. Pastor Pam will fill in on June 5th and has great things planned for our Pentecost celebration! James' baptism will be re-scheduled. If you have a pastoral crisis during that time, please call Pastor Pam at 330-257-2898.

### Summer Lunch Bunch

Sometimes, we've taken a break from lunch bunch in the summer, but we're hoping some of our friends who have been recovering from surgery will be well enough to join us. **Each lunch bunch is at 11:30 am (cont'd pg 4).**

Please mark your calendars for the following lunch dates and contact Pastor Jana by the day before the lunch if you plan to attend:

June 16 at Pasta Too

5260 Library Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

July 21 at Beach House Restaurant (Cash Only)

6285 Route 88, Finleyville, PA 15332

August 18 at Central Diner and Grille (near Robinson)

6408 Steubenville Pike Pittsburgh, PA 15205

### **Rummage Sale**

Mark your calendar for July 21st from 6:30-8:30, and July 22nd and 23rd from 9-1! If you have items to donate or you would like to help with the sale, please contact Linda Beattie (412-298-4078).

### **Online Worship Continues**

Remember, worship is available online at our YouTube channel and on our Facebook page each Sunday at 11 am, barring technical problems. Please consider sharing them with friends and family. We want to be a blessing to as many people as possible.

### **Board Meetings**

We won't be conducting board meetings through the summer due to the difficulty of gathering a quorum. If issues arise that need immediate discussion, they will be handled on a case by case basis.

### **Camp Laurelview**

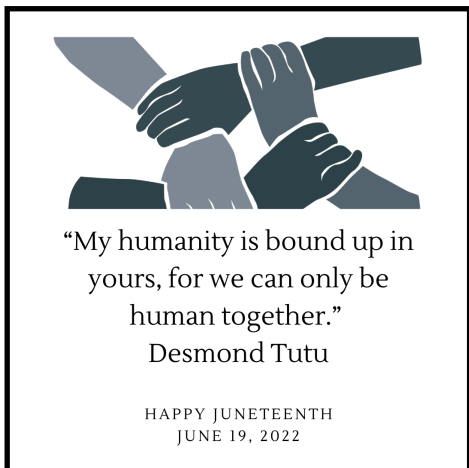
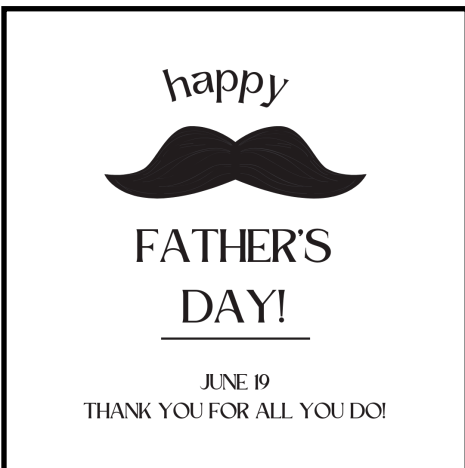
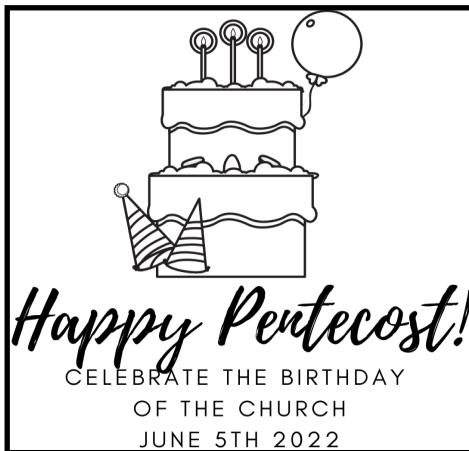
Located 5 miles from Laurel Hill State Park, Laurelview Christian Camp is the outdoor ministry site for the Christian Church (DOC) in Pennsylvania. It's a place where individuals develop a relationship with God (*cont'd pg 5*),

### **Prayer Concerns**

- Victims and families in Uvalde, TX, Buffalo, NY, and Laguna Woods, California
- Pat Watson, recovering at home from knee surgery
- Bonnie Rudolph, at home recovering from knee surgery
- Martha Kameron, recovering from ankle surgery at Paramount Bethel Park
- For Jason Lombardi's coach, Jim Ellis, in ICU
- Bruce Holland, friend of Susan Heckman with a leg injury
- Jason Anderson
- Ukraine
- Karen Vogt
- Margery Sebolt, with a blood clot in her leg
- Martha's sister, Mary Jane
- Denise Grkman, recovering from heart surgery
- Vicki, friend of Pam's, recovering from a kidney transplant
- Alice Vietmeier, Maria's friend, kidney issues
- For Julie Titus, Pam Bruno's Niece
- Martha's niece, Courtney, with complications from MS
- Scarlett Runquist, 9 year old with leukemia
- Dick Mansuetto, Nick Mansuetto's father, with cancer
- Barb Morgan's Aunt Shirley, with lung cancer
- Sue Orrick's cousin, Sandra Reidel, now considered cancer free!
- Barb Morgan's sister-in-law, Elaine, with stage 4 lung cancer
- Rev. Heather Simpson with health concerns
- For the families of the over 6.3 million people worldwide who have died of Covid-19

*A Handbook for Today's Disciples in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* by D. Duane Cummins; “This handbook provides concise information on Disciples history, thought, worship, mission, and structure – a valuable resource for lifelong Disciples, newcomers to the Disciples’ ministry of Christian unity, and those who simply want to know more about the church.

*Prayer for People Who Can't Sit Still* by William Tenny-Brittian; The author, himself diagnosed with adult ADHD, goes back to ancient times and into the techno-generation to share ten types of kinesthetic prayer that will help even the most fidgety connect with God.



one another, and a deeper understanding of the Christian faith. Brightwood covers the cost for half of your child’s camp fees, and scholarships are available through the Regional Church. Check out the schedule on the next page, then register at [laurelview.org](http://laurelview.org)

Camp Laurelview Summer Events		
Event	Entering Grades	Dates
CYF Conference	10 – new grads	June 19-25 (Sun-Sat)
Chi Rho Camp	6-9	July 10-16 (Sun-Sat)
Junior Camp	4-5	July 17-23 (Sun-Sat)
Mini Camp	1-3	July 24-27(Sun-Wed)
Family Camp	All ages	July 28-31(Thu-Sun)

*A Note:* Pastor Jana is codirecting the Chi Rho camp, the week of July 10th. She will be at camp that Sunday morning, and we will have a supply preacher yet to be determined.

**Laurelview Rental**

Did you know you can rent camp Laurelview? Go to the website and click “Property Rentals” for more information. **You can even take a virtual tour of the grounds!**

**Laurelview Support**

Because of the lifechanging impact of the camp, Brightwood pays for half of our kids registration fees. To do so, we need your help! If you’d like to give towards those cost, be sure to note “Laurelview fees” with your gift.

### **Special Music**

We rely on your talent for special music during the summer. This is a perfect opportunity to highlight your talent for singing, dancing, or playing an instrument to the glory of God. The church is a holy place to encourage new talent and to have a supportive audience. Please contact Pastor Jana if you are interested to secure a date.

### **Back to School Drive**

Each year, the South Hills Interfatih Movement (SHIM) collects school supplies for kids in need in the districts they serve (Bethel Park, Baldwin-Whitehall, Keystone Oaks, Mount Lebanon, Upper Saint Clair and Keystone Oaks). We are collecting school supplies through June and July to be able to have them to SHIM in time for their celebrations. Please place supplies in the basket located in the narthex or make a donation marked "school supplies" and we will contribute it toward this drive. Let's see how many kids we can help have a great school year!

### **Fall Planning Meeting**

We are ready to get back to business as a church. It is time for us to get back to the mission of welcoming, growing, and serving, and we need you! On August 7th, after worship, we'll gather for a light meal and a planning meeting. Everyone is welcome. There will be childcare in the nursery after lunch. We will be setting our calendar for the fall and reimagining the ways in which we serve our role as the church, providing opportunities for education, spiritual growth, service and fellowship in the year to come. Please plan to join us. If you aren't able, but you have an event or program idea, please contact Pastor Jana.

### **Cemetery Care**

Did you know the church has a cemetery? Peter's creek Christian Church Cemetery sits at the intersection of Sugar Camp and Churchill roads and hails from our earliest days as a church. We have been incredibly blessed by the care that Barb Morgan's brothers have taken care of that sacred space for many years. Changing circumstances in their lives, including Elaine Morgan's cancer, mean they are unable to continue that care. We will forever be grateful for their good work.

Now, we need your help. We want to continue to respectfully maintain the grounds. If you are interested in helping with that project, please contact Pastor Jana.

### **Summer Reading**

Looking for a great book to take to the beach? Chalice Press is the publishing arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has some great offerings. Check them out at [chalicepress.com](http://chalicepress.com) or call 1-800-366-3383 to order. Pastor Jana recommends:

*Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Traci Smith; "Brimming with more than 50 easy, do-it-yourself ideas to share with your family throughout the year, Faithful Families will help transform your family's everyday moments into sacred moments!"

*Ash & Starlight: Prayers for the Chaos & Grace of Daily Life* by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn; In this collection of 60 tender prayers, your soul will rejoice, accept, surrender, and trust amid the ash and starlight of your daily life (cont'd on pg 8).