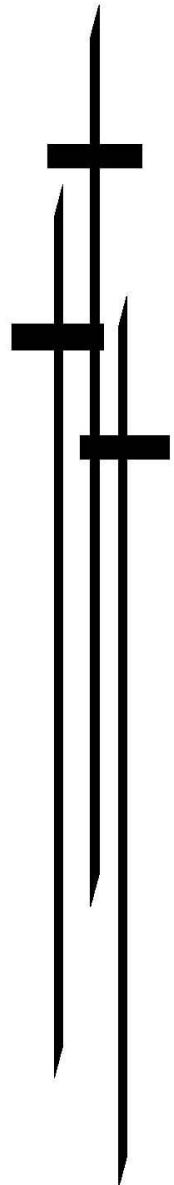


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

March 2014



*Loving, Serving, and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

...On Lenten Pondering...

Lent is a time when Christians traditionally trace the epic journey of Jesus, which takes him to the literal Cross-road of Good Friday, through the cold bleakness of the tomb, to the

glorious Resurrection of Easter Morning. Lent is also an excellent time for each of us to consider our own journey of faith: where we have been, where we are going, and what we can do along the way to strengthen and renew our spiritual lives. Additionally, it's a good time to consider how Christ's life, character, and identity impact and intertwine with our own.

On Tuesday March 11th at 7:15 pm, we will begin a five week study on the "I AM" statements of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John. These seven statements aren't found in any of the other earlier Gospels, and therefore may be later theological reflections by the author of *John*. Regardless of their origin, I believe these powerful expressions are extremely accurate in describing and revealing the true nature and person of Jesus Christ. I also believe that they provide you and me a tremendous amount of insight as to our own identity and mission as Christ's followers today.

Each week, along with our discussion of the Biblical texts, we will also have the opportunity to share some of our personal experiences and insights. As always, this is the real heart of our time together. I hope you will join us for some, or all, of our Tuesday evening gatherings!

Here's some of what's happening at BUCC this Lent and Holy Week:

**March 5 - 6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
7:00 - Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes**

**Tuesday Evening Bible Studies on the seven "I AM"
statements of Jesus from the Gospel of John - 7:15- 8:30 pm.**

March 11 - The Light Of The World

March 19 - The Good Shepherd

March 25 - The Bread Of Life / The Vine

April 1 - The Way, The Truth, and The Life / The Gate

April 9 - The Resurrection and the Life

**April 17 - 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
7:00 - Holy Communion**

**April 20 - 6:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service and Holy
Communion at the Brecksville/Highland Cemetery (Highland
Drive, just South of Rte. 82 - park at the water tower)
10:00 a.m.- Easter Festival Celebration**

**With you on the journey,
Pastor Dave**

If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Pastor Dave at the church office (440-526-4364) or at home (440-546-1193). He will be glad to meet with you.

I want to send a grateful "Thank You" to the "Anonymous Donor" who provided money for the bonus that showed up on my last month's pay stub. Your generosity is truly appreciated!
Pastor Dave



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

NEWS FROM OCWM



The next Family promise will be on Tuesday, March 4th at Christ The redeemer Lutheran Church. Look for the sign - up board in the narthex to indicate your interest in helping with the meal, entertaining the families, especially the children, and staying overnight.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Sunday, March 30th. Interpretive literature will be available as the time gets nearer.

The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, May 18th at Pearl Road United Methodist Church partnering with Church of the Advent Episcopal Church. They will provide the entree, and BUCC will provide the salad, bread, and dessert. Look for the sign up board in the narthex as the time draws nearer. About 10 to 12 persons in two shifts will be needed to help.



MEMBERSHIP

Kent State Fashion Museum...Our road trip from January has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 2, 2014. We will carpool after Church and a quick lunch. Please sign up so we are able to determine how many drivers will be needed.

FACILITIES

CLEAN THE ATTIC SATURDAY
February 22 ~ 9 am to Noon



The Facilities Ministry is asking for roughly 10 volunteers to help us sort out, organize, & hopefully pitch or "repurpose" the myriad of "stuff" in the church's attic that has been accumulating over the years. We have already asked the various ministries & groups to organize & label their supplies that are stored there now. If you can help, please let Jane Cribbs know (440-526-4728).

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Lenten Project: What's the first sign of spring for CE? The Lenten Project! This year, the kids would like to raise money to help with local need, and have chosen to support The Centers for Family & Children (thecentersohio.org). As an organization, BUCC regularly supports the Brookside Food Center on Pearl Road through our donations of food and supplies. As part of this project, we will be organizing a trip for the kids to visit Brookside to see how our donations are used to help others in our community.

This year the kids are going to make beaded lanyards for the name tags that they will sell at Fellowship Hour during lent for between \$5 & \$10. We like this idea because not only is it a fun way for the kids to raise money, but we hope it will also help encourage members to wear their name tags as they will have one or more *beautiful, handmade lanyards* to show them off with!

This is also a great opportunity to clean out your craft closet or cabinet – if you have any crafting beads that you would like to

donate to the cause, you can give them to any of the kids to take to class. Thanks in advance!

Secondary Room Cleanup: In March we will be working to clean up the Secondary Classroom (2nd - 5th grade) and make it feel more inviting and less like a 'storage room'. We have already reached out to Council to help identify items we need to preserve - if you have anything stored in this room you would like us to watch out for, please contact Sue Maier.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



Communications and Outreach Ministry is making some final touches (and continual updates) to our website at www.brecksvilleucc.org

One of the suggestions that we are looking forward to implement is to populate the current pictures (especially on the home page) with pictures/photos from our own church family. In order to do that, we are requesting that you review the social media policy and release form. We want to be sensitive to people's privacy but also celebrate all the wonderful happenings that occur every week at our church. Please complete the social media photo/video release form which is included in this pillar, or if you are an E-Pillar recipient, it's in your attachments – there are also additional copies in the Office. Return to the church office. Thanks for your cooperation. If you should have any questions, call Diane Gressley @ 440.417.2675 or digressley@gmail.com

****See Photo/Video Release Form in your
Attachments****

Notes and Asides



TOASTMASTERS

Every Thursday evening from 6:45 pm – 8:15 pm, your local Toastmasters group meets right here in our own Fellowship Hall! What is Toastmasters? It is an international organization that promotes confidence and capability in public speaking and leadership skills. As a member, you receive guidance and support from written materials, and from more experienced members. The program really works! A half year of membership costs \$45.00. If this sounds like an area of your life that you would like to enrich, please stop by a meeting and see what it is all about. There is no commitment to attending every week, but the more you attend, the faster you improve. Our group is small and attendance is generally a dozen people or less. We hope to see some of our church family taking advantage of this opportunity close to home.

David and Kathy Pastor

Musical Notes – Dave Debick



On Sunday May 4 at 4:00 p.m., Brecksville UCC will host violinist Jinjoo Cho, an outstanding recent performance graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music. She has performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, the Montreal, Quebec, Winnipeg and Victoria Symphony Orchestras, Seoul Philharmonic, Kalamazoo Symphony, Louisville Orchestra and CityMusic Cleveland. Pianist HyunSoo Kim will accompany Ms. Cho. He recently received his Artist Diploma at CIM, and has performed as soloist with the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the Newark Symphony Orchestra and numerous community orchestras in the Delaware region. More information about this program will appear in April's Pillar. In the meantime, mark your calendars and plan on joining us for an awesome concert on May 4.



Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week on Thursday, March 6 from 7-8 p.m. Holy Week is scheduled for April 13-20. If you enjoy singing in a group setting, but don't have time to commit to regular choir, please consider joining seasonal choir as we make our musical/spiritual journey toward commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the Institution of Holy Communion, Christ's betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, and burial, and Jesus' miraculous Resurrection on Easter morning. Rehearsals run weekly during Lent on Thursdays from 7-8. High school students are welcome to participate. CDs will be provided to help learn the vocal parts.



On Sunday morning, February 2, BUCC worshipers entered the sanctuary and discovered a wonderful surprise: five amber and green windowpanes from our former church building had been installed in the upper panels of the east wall windows. These panes—along with the larger stained glass windows in the lower commons—survived the fire that destroyed our old church building in 1965. A huge word of thanks to Doug Fawcett for installing these historic windowpanes and making this colorful connection to our past possible. Be sure to let Doug know how much you like the new/old windows.

A portion of the funds to restore these windowpanes was given by Bill and Lenore Harris, in loving memory of their parents, Fred and Florence Harris, and T. E. and Anne Jerabek.

OOPS!



We accidentally left out a couple of Birthdays last month! Please wish a Happy Belated Birthday to Michalina Melfo, February 5, Julie Bernard, February 7, and Victor Melfo, February 22. Our Sincerest Apologies for the oversight.



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

March 2:	Karen Adolphson
	Tia Began
March 8:	Mindy Harris
March 9:	Celia Kelly
	Chris Fas
March 13:	Benjamin Rehling
March 16:	Olivia Klonowski
	Spencer Whyte
	Matthew Walters
March 18:	Philip Fas
	Nancy Foose
	Barbara Gartland
March 20:	Emma Novak
March 23:	Emily Kelly
March 24:	Kathleen Stewart
March 25:	Joe Wilson
March 28:	Dolores Hoyt
	Pat Bailey
	Kathy Lander

March 29: Mark Rehling
March 30: Susan Snyder
March 31: Nancy Karikas

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



March

FOOD PANTRY

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta



ENCORE

A Sprinkle of Light, Salt
(Text - Matthew 5:13-20)

Pastor Dave Shackle
February 9, 2014

I would guess that most of us here are familiar with the Stephen Schwartz

musical *Godspell*. Many of you may know it because it's been revived several times since its 1971 premier. In my case, however, as a Church Camp counselor, college student, and seminarian of the 1970's, the words and music of *Godspell*

have been permanently branded upon my brain. So, when I hear today's reading from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, what registers in my mind is this:

You are the light of the world!
You are the light of the world!
But if that light's under a bushel (burrrr),
It's lost something kind of crucial.
You've got to stay bright to be the light of the world.

You are the salt of the earth!
You are the salt of the earth!
But if that salt has lost its flavor
It ain't got much in its favor.
You can't have that fault and be the salt of the earth.

So let your light so shine before men
Let your light so shine,
So that they might know some kindness again
We all need help to feel fine - let's have some wine!
(Now in all fairness, we had just come out of the psychedelic
60's, and were entering a new and even more groovy decade!)

I think it's fascinating, how simple words or phrases can instantly evoke a wide range of images, memories, and emotions from our past. When we listen to Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount, we realize that he completely understands this. Rather than delivering an in-depth theological explanation about the importance of living an honorable and elevated life, Jesus simply says to his followers, "You are the light of the world! You are the salt of the earth!" For people living in a pre-Edison era, in a place where candles are a precious commodity, the stark difference between light and darkness is clearly comprehended and appreciated. So Jesus telling his followers that *they* are the

light of the world ignites and raises their spirits in a way that they will forever remember. And in a world where *salt* was often valued above *gold*, and is used to pay Roman soldiers for their military service, telling those people that they are the salt of the earth, is an extremely high and memorable complement. Jesus could definitely stir people's imaginations, and inspire their dedication, by using everyday objects or examples to trigger ideas and ideals that are already there, just below the surface. This morning, I'd like to try to do the same, by lifting-up some images and ideas about *salt*.

With last weekend's brief thaw, quite a few people eagerly lined-up at the Shell Car Wash back here, to get some of that road salt off their vehicles, before it could eat-away at the metal. It reminded me of a brief *Pillar* article I had written a few years ago, about some of the ways that *salt* is used. Of course, the fact that I was already thinking about Jesus' teaching, and "You are the salt of the earth" was playing incessantly in my head, also helped bring that article to mind. In it, I reflected on both the positive - and negative - properties that are found in that simple compound *salt*. Jesus himself opens his remarks with an affirmation of the value of salt, and the high regard people have for those who are considered to be "salt of the earth" kind of folk. Yet he immediately rotates that positive expression, to reveal a potentially distressing reality: "But if that salt has lost its flavor, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot." It seems to me that Jesus is essentially saying, "Look, each of you, as my followers, have a critical role in making this world a better place. The example you set, the light you provide, is truly significant! Therefore, as representatives of God, you will either actively exemplify the abundance of Divine Compassion

and Grace, or you will convey the message that God is somehow inadequate, insensitive, or just plain cruel!" "You are the salt of the earth!" However, that simple compound does have several complex, and contradictory, qualities. For example, salt can be extremely helpful for our cars, melting snow and ice so we don't slide off the road and cause serious damage. Yet that same salt can also be destructive, eating-away at our cars' vulnerable spots; encrusting them with a corrosive crud that dulls their color and diminishes their shine. "You are the salt of the earth!"

Salt is used to season our food, to enhance its taste, and to help bring out the best possible flavor. Some say there's nothing more bland than a salt-free diet. Nevertheless, if we overdo it, that same salt can completely overpower the taste, and ruin a perfectly good meal. And too *much* salt in our system can lead to high blood pressure, heart disease, and other health concerns. Salt can be helpful or hindering, a blessing, or a bane. "You are the *salt* of the earth!"

For centuries, salt has been used as a preservative, keeping food from spoiling - and safe to eat - on long and difficult journeys. Yet salt can also destroy food, and entire food sources. For example, neither plant nor fish can survive in - or close to - Israel's Salt Sea - also known as the *Dead Sea*! So salt can help preserve Life, or it can be an extremely toxic presence. "You are the salt of the earth."

Finally, salt can have a marvelous healing and soothing quality. I remember as a kid, gargling with warm salt water to help relieve a sore throat, or the socket of a recently pulled tooth. Saline solution is used for I.V. therapy, to flush and cleanse wounds or burns, and in molecular biology and biochemistry experiments. Of course salt can also have an extremely painful and poisonous effect. There's a good

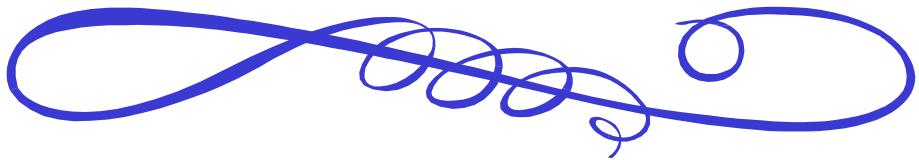
reason for the expression, "Rubbing salt in a wound" - a very vivid and pointed figure of speech. It means kicking someone when they're already down, crushing them when they're already hurting or vulnerable. It's taking that marvelous opportunity to show mercy and compassion, and using it instead to display an insensitive and just plain cruel spirit. "You are the salt of the earth."

Throughout the past 2,000 years, some of humanity's most constructive *and* destructive actions have been done in the name of Jesus Christ. Even as we gather here today to celebrate Christ's welcoming and inclusive love, there are others who gather to promote bigotry, hatred, and violence - under the guise of being God's true and righteous instruments. For many modern and rational individuals, this bizarre dichotomy is a convenient reason for giving up on God, and for walking away from the Church. For me, however, this dichotomy is a fundamental reason for staying with the Church, and actively serving as a member and minister of Brecksville United Church of Christ - a community of faith that truly gets it, and continually strives to let the Light of Christ's love shine in and through all that we do.

For better, or for worse, there *are* a lot of "Salty Saints" scattered throughout this world. Some of them try to preserve and protect life; to respect and restore the dignity of all God's children. Others prefer to promote division, dissension and deliberate damage - under the distorted delusion that they're acting on behalf of an angry and judgmental god. As David Ewart points out in our Continuing Testament, "The difference between being wise or foolish is in *Acting*, or *Not Acting*. Jesus is essentially telling his followers, 'Look, here's what's at stake, and what's required of you: You are blessed, now go and be a blessing!' It is not enough for us to hear these words

of Jesus; to study them; to be inspired by them. We must *act* on them, *practice* them and *live* them in our everyday lives."

"You *are* the salt of the earth!" Now go shake and scatter your good stuff, and make this world a better place!



BUCC CALENDAR MARCH 2014

Saturday, March

8-5 Quilters/PH
9 am Facilities

Sunday, March 2

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Fellowship Hour
12 pm Kent State
Museum Trip

Monday, March 3

Tuesday, March 4
Family Promise
7 pm Membership

Wednesday, March 5
ASH WEDNESDAY

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulc.
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Holy Communion

Thursday, March 6

1 pm Bible Study
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, March 7**Saturday, March 8****Sunday, March 9**

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Fellowship Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, March 10**Tuesday, March 11**

10-11:30CWRU
7:15-8:30 pm
Adult Bible
Study PH

Wednesday, March 12

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Rcrdr/Dulcimer
7 pm Council PH

Thursday, March 13

1 pm Bible Study
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, March 14

Saturday, March 15
PILLAR
DEADLINE

Sunday, March 16
10 am Worship Church
School

11 am **Fellowship Hour/**
Corned Beef/
Cabbage Pot-
Luck

Monday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday, March 18

10-11:30CWRU
7:15-8:30 pm
Adult Bible
Study PH

Wednesday, March 19

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulc.

Thursday, March 20

1 pm Bible Study
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, March 21

Saturday, March 22
9-12am Attic Clean-up

Sunday, March 23

10 am Worship
11 am Fellowship Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, March 24

Tuesday, March 25
10-11:30 CWRU
7:15-8:30 pm
Adult Bible
Study PH

Wednesday, March 26

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulc.

Thursday, March 27

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Chr.
8 pm Choir

Friday, March 28**Saturday, March 29****Sunday, March 30**

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Fellowship Hour

Monday March 31

Participants in Worship

MARCH 2, 2014

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
 Head Usher: Bob Chandler
 Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard, Fred Peseck, Sue Maier
 Acolyte: Jillian Davis
 Peace Cndl: Garrett Demko
 Sound: Kevin Smith
 Commons: Ruth Morris
 Narthex: George Snider
 Flowers: Kathy Pastor
 Nursery: Kate Klonowski
 Counters: Nancy Stella, Anna Mary Fisher
 Servers: Joy Garapic, Joanne Cook
 Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
 Snacks: Melissa Lund, Tia Began
 Snow Herder: Chad Sproul

MARCH 9, 2014

Lay Reader: Lenore Harris
 Head Usher: Diane Gressley
 Ushers: Carole & George Snider
 Joanne Cook, Sam Koch
 Acolyte: Courtni Began
 Peace Cndl: Drew Demko
 Sound: David Pastor
 Commons: Linda Kriyovich
 Narthex: Mage Culver
 Flowers: Dorie Gabor
 Nursery: Marla Corrado
 Counters: Carole Snider, Kathy Pastor
 Servers: Dorie Gabor, Jill Zedan
 Clean Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
 Snacks: Marge Culver & Kathy Smith
 Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert

MARCH 16, 2014

Lay Reader: Kathy Pastor
 Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
 Ushers: David Ritchey, Sue Stenzel, Val Duffy, Jim Duffy
 Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
 Peace Cndl: Olivia Klonowski
 Sound: Max Roha
 Commons: Ann Kelly
 Narthex: Kathy Smith
 Flowers: Jan Renovetz
 Nursery: Shauna Bigelow

Counters:

Bruce McCain, Dassie Matsuoka
 Joanne Cook, Sue Stenzel
 David & Kathy Pastor
 Jane Cribbs & Anne Melfo
 Joe Wilson

MARCH 23, 2014

Lay Reader: Max Roha
 Head Usher: Evie Novak
 Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler, David & Kathy Pastor
 Acolyte: Benjamin Rehling
 Peace Cndl: Michalina Fawcett
 Sound: Chad Sproul
 Commons: Sue Stenzel
 Narthex: Carole Snider
 Flowers: Carole Snider
 Nursery: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
 Counters: Donn Whyte, Jan Renovetz
 Servers: Chad Sproul & Sue Stenzel
 Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
 Snacks: Ruthie Thorp, Diane Gressley
 Snow Herder: Billy Harris

March 30, 2014

Lay Reader: Spencer Whyte
 Head Usher: Max Roha
 Ushers: Diane Gressley, Linda Kriyovich, Dorie Gabor, Drew Wilson
 Acolyte: Ian Stewart
 Peace Cndl: Indira Bigelow
 Sound: Peg Duffy
 Commons: Joanne Cook
 Narthex: Chad Sproul
 Flowers: Betty Gifford
 Nursery: Val Duffy
 Counters: Mac Hoppel, David Pastor
 Servers: Dorie Gabor, Caroline Chandler
 Clean-Up: Bob Chandler, Lynne Struck
 Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Lenore Harris
 Snow Hrdr: David Pastor



The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

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FIRST CLASS