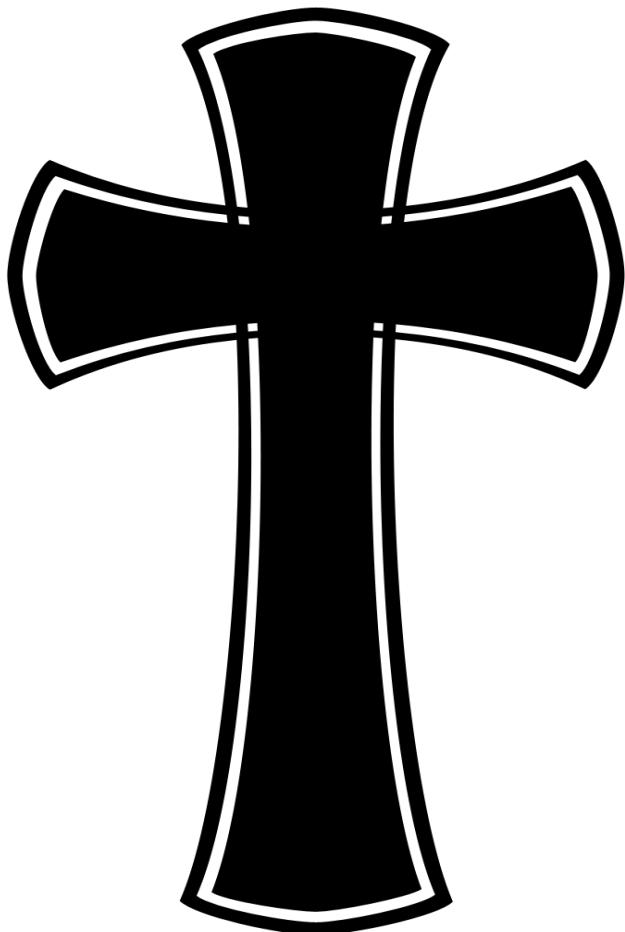


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 2015



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



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

...Ashes, Palms, Crosses
and Crowns...

This month, as we prepare for another season of Lent, it occurs to me that for many people in our society, and even in our churches, the term "Lent" is a bit of an enigma. The history and

traditions associated with Lent are even a bit blurred in the minds and memories of many church leaders (Yes, I mean me!) Historically, Lent is a time when Christians contemplate the climactic journey of Jesus - from the Glory of the Transfiguration and the triumphant procession of Palm Sunday, through the dark betrayal of Maundy Thursday and the deadly valley of Good Friday, to the glorious Resurrection of Easter morning. Lent is also a excellent time for us to consider our own journey of faith: where we've been, where we are going, and what we can do along the way to strengthen and renew our spiritual life.

Throughout Church history, many Lenten practices have developed and changed - from 40 hours to 40 days; from a short pre-Easter baptismal preparation to a 40 day period of prayer and fasting, reflecting Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Many of us have our own history of Lenten observances and practices, which vary according to our religious upbringing and traditions. Personally, my favorite and most beneficial

practice is to “give-up” and “take-up” something for Lent. The “giving-up” something, is a way of remembering and emulating the self-giving life of Jesus Christ. It can help strengthen our own self-discipline, while at the same time increasing our appreciation for those things that we routinely take for granted. The second practice is to use that now-available time or those extra resources to “take-up” something positive for us and helpful to others.

Of course, you and I don’t need a special season, or reason, to “give-up” our excesses or to “take-up” new and positive projects or behaviors. What we do need, is the basic desire and the committed decision to *do it!* And the Lenten Season provides us a perfect opportunity to start. Regardless of what our own history with Lent may be, it is an important and meaningful time of the year - a time to contemplate the life and death of Jesus Christ, and to intentionally deepen our own personal connection with the Divine Source of Life.

This year’s Lenten Season begins February 18th, with our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 6:30 in Pilgrim Hall, followed by our Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7:00. Then, for the next five Tuesday evenings, I’ll be offering a study on “The ABC’s of Our Faith” to help us deepen our understanding of some of the basic and key teaching and traditions of Christianity (The Church Year, the Bible, the Sacraments, the Gospel, Differing Denominations, and much more!) As usual, we will also discuss the issues, questions, thoughts and insights that each participant brings to the table. It will be an excellent opportunity for us all - newer members and longtime ones - to explore and share our Faith.

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.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED AT BUCC on Sunday February 8th at our morning worship service. If you are interested in learning more about membership at BUCC, please talk with Pastor Dave.

A **FIVE-WEEK LENTEN STUDY** on "The ABC's of Our Faith" will be held in Pilgrim Hall from 7:15-8:30 for five Tuesday evenings, beginning February 24th. We'll be looking at some of the basic teaching and key traditions of Christianity, including The Church Year, the Bible, the Sacraments, the Gospel, Differing Denominations, and much more! As usual, we will also discuss the issues, questions, thoughts and insights that each participant brings to the table. It will be an excellent opportunity for us all - newer members and longtime ones - to explore and share our Faith together. Please join us for any or all sessions!

Pastor Dave



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

MARDI GRAS IS COMING! Get ready for a little New Orleans style celebration before we enter the solemn time of lent. On February 15th, get out your beads, boas, or whatever makes you feel festive as we turn BUCC into the French Quarter. New Orleans jazz will have you tapping your feet as part of this

uplifting and positive message service. As they say down on Bourbon Street - *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

FACILITIES Lenore Harris

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!!!



When the weather is cold, the South Entry (parking lot) door does not close completely by itself. More often than not Jeannette finds this door slightly ajar and therefore unlocked in the morning. This is dangerous for several reasons; the most important being Jeannette's safety.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THE DOOR IS
TIGHTLY SHUT WHEN LEAVING THE BUILDING. THANK YOU**

FINANCE

The amount collected for the Christmas Fund was \$1,271.



This fund is used to supplement monthly pensions for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees. Such needs as food, utilities, and living and medical expenses are included. Quarterly health premium supplementation,

especially for prescription medication is also included. Emergency grants are provided when needed, and also "thank you" gift checks for these Veterans Of The Cross are given as a special gift to remind them they have not been forgotten.

The check sent to the Western Reserve Association in 2013 amounted to \$763. Thank you for your generous support.

FINANCE CONTINUED



From the Toneffs:

"This is a donation to the Pastor's fund. Doug Fawcett's expertise and work fixed our chimney. We thank him with this gift.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ILCU (Intentional Loving Caring Unit)

This ministry tries to keep up with members who have had surgery, are in recovery or just can't get to our Sunday services. A note, a phone call, a prayer....a way to keep in touch and let them know we are thinking of them.



Kirk and Lee Sanderson - by the time you read this, they will be moved into Chippewa Place, 7005 Stadium Pl., Brecksville, OH 44141



Cheryl Spieth - at home following by-pass surgery, 8977 Highland Rd., Brecksville, OH 44141

Doris Schmid - following a fall, Legacy Place, 9528 Vail Dr., Twinsburg, OH 44087

Shirley Duncan - Summit Pointe, 9633 Valley View Rd., #2507, Macedonia, OH 44056

Cindy Burton - 7645 Winding Way, Brecksville, OH 44141

If you know of someone who needs to be remembered, please give me a call at 330-467-9357. Thank you, Janet Renovetz

NOTES AND ASIDES



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

February 3:	Dave Shackle
	Connor Rowitz
February 5:	Anna Mary Fisher
	Michalina Melfo-Fawcett
February 7:	Julie Bernard
February 8:	Marge Culver
February 10:	Michelle Rogers
February 11:	Judi Smith
February 12:	Jeanne Cowden
	Ian Stewart
February 13:	Cliff Stenzel
February 22:	Drew Demko
	Garrett Demko
	Jan Rahnenfuehrer
	Bill Toneff
	Victor Melfo-Fawcett
February 25:	Darlene Kelly
February 27:	Doug Lightbody
	David Pastor
February 29:	Diane Gressley

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



BLESSINGS JAR

Thank you, Caroline Chandler, for your knitting expertise.

Marianne Karwowski Hoppel



Fair Trade coffee is served at our coffee hour. A basket at the end of the serving table is provided for contributions. Purchases of Fair Trade coffee help small farmers and their families.



CRAFT CUPBOARD

February - Craft Cupboard - School Supplies - Pencils, Paper, Crayons, etc.



CRAFTERS 4 CHRIST

It's a new year, and we are getting started with some new projects! We will be donating the stack of quilts the group has been working on and moving on to some smaller projects (sewing, knitting or crocheting, and paper crafts).

If you like to make things with your hands and would be

interested in learning more, please talk to Annie Demko or Caroline Chandler. We'd love to have you join us when we meet (roughly once a month), but if you are unable to make our meetings, don't let that stop you! Any of the work can be done when you are able to find the time on your own. We would be happy to offer some basic instruction if you'd like a little help getting started and can supply some of the materials needed from donations we have received.

LETTER OF THANKS

We extend our sincere thanks to Sue and Cliff Stenzel for



cooking and supervising the wonderful Thanksgiving dinner at BUCC in November, 2014. The food was delicious. The tasty turkey and side dishes were much appreciated by a shut-in Ann who couldn't be present. Heartfelt thanks to all the faithful helpers and to all who provided side dishes also. Thanks again, Sue and Cliff!

Sincerely, Bill and Ann Toneff

MUSIC



Seasonal Choir – On Thursday Feb. 19 at 7:00 pm, seasonal choir will begin rehearsing for Holy Week, which is scheduled for March 29-April 5 this year. If you enjoy singing in a group setting, but don't have time to commit to regular choir, seasonal choir provides a great opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual

preparation for Holy Week. High school students are welcome.

Rehearsals run from 7-8 pm on Thursdays during Lent. Listening CDs are provided to help learn the music.

On Sunday March 1, Brecksville UCC will host the Baldwin Wallace Brass Choir, directed by John Brndiar. The Choir will play several works involving full ensemble, as well as pieces written for smaller quartets, quintets, etc. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program. We hope you can be present with us on March 1 to enjoy these outstanding brass players.

NEWS FROM OCWM



Since the last Pillar, there have been two food deliveries – one to Community Corner and one to Brookside. All told, there were almost 100 items, including food items, toiletries, dental supplies, school supplies, and last but certainly not least, hats and mittens from the mitten tree (first and second harvesting). The response to the need by BUCC members and friends and the St.

Bridget Community has been increasing lately. The effect of these items on the lives of those in need cannot be overestimated.

The last hunger meal was served on December 21st at the Pearl Road United Methodist Church, in conjunction with the St. Bridget Community. The entrée was purchased lasagna, salad provided by St. Bridget, and cookies provided by both groups (and ice cream supplied by the hunger center resource person). Discussions with the resource person about the number of persons attending led us to prepare for 175 to 200

meals. Were we surprised when about 75 persons showed up! We were able to serve ample numbers of second helpings as well as generous amounts of take home meals. And the remainder was taken to St. Herman's to provide for their hunger meal activities.

OFFERING TO BE TAKEN FOR UCC COALITION FOR LGBT CONCERNYS

On Sunday, February 15, a special offering will be taken at BUCUCC for the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns. (LGBT is an abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered)



The Coalition was founded in 1972. In 1985, the General Synod passed a resolution encouraging individual churches to declare themselves "Open and Affirming." In the 30 years since, the Open and Affirming (ONA) Program of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns has worked to

encourage congregations and other UCC settings to live out that call to welcome LGBT people as full participants in the life of the church.

The Coalition welcomed the first ONA church in 1986. Today there are more than 1200 ONA congregations in the UCC, about 23% of the denomination. Brecksville UCC voted to become ONA in 1991, the third church in Ohio to do so and 58th in the denomination.

It should be noted that the Coalition receives no formal funding from the national church. It is almost entirely dependent on grants and on donations from individuals and congregations such as ours to fund the work that it does.

In a statement found on the Coalition's website, Executive Director Andy Lang says: "We want to continue to remind our members that ONA covenants are a commitment to a broad vision of a church and a world in which everyone is wanted and needed, where no one is excluded. This means our work emphasizes, but is not limited to, the full inclusion of LGBTQ people in our church. And we want to build on the progress we've made in recent years in deepening our partnerships with communities of color, with the Widening the Welcome movement, and especially with the national setting of the church." Jon K. Thompson

A SAD NOTE

The Toneffs received a card from the family of Paul Carpenter, who served BUCC as Associate Pastor in the 1960's, informing us of his death in 2014. Longtime members of BUCC may remember him. At the time of his death, he was 89 years old, and was a member of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



With Sadness We Announce that Nancy Allenson died this past Monday from complications of a stroke she had suffered a few weeks ago. Yesterday, the family held a private service in her memory. On Sunday February 22nd, at 11:45, our BUCC Family will take some time to remember and celebrate Nancy's life among us. Members of her beloved BUCC Choir will sing, we will have a few brief readings, and people will have the opportunity to share some of their memories and stories of Nancy. Please continue to keep Nancy's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

WOMEN UNITED

Judith Caster LISW is an employee of Bellefaire JCB and works in Orange High School as support for students who have mental health or behavioral issues. She will be speaking to the women who attend the United Church Women's Meeting at BUCC.



In these uneasy times it is judicious that we try to understand these troubled young people and learn what is being done to support them and move them into a recovery mode. Judie's focus is on preventative care – targeting the students, helping to keep unsuitable, bad behaviors from escalating and teaching those in trouble to identify and react appropriately to their issues.

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18th. We meet in the parlor. Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

ENCORE



In the interest of space/resource conservation, we will no longer be printing an Encore Sermon.

All of Pastor Dave's Sermons are online at our Church Website, or also available to listen to on DVD. Thank you.



BUCC CALENDAR FEBRUARY, 2015

Sunday, Feb. 1

10 am Worship and Church School
11 am Annual Meeting
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, Feb. 2

Tuesday, Feb. 3

10-11:30 CWRU
7 pm Membership

Wed, Feb. 4

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, Feb. 5

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

Friday, Feb. 6

Saturday, Feb. 7

Sunday, Feb. 8

10 am Worship and Church School
New Members
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Percussion
6-7:30 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Feb. 9

Tuesday, Feb. 10

10-11:30 CWRU

Wed., Feb. 11

6 am Early Birds
7 pm Council

Thursday, Feb. 12

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

Friday, Feb. 13

Saturday, Feb. 14 ♥Happy Valentine's Day♥

Sunday, Feb. 15

10 am Worship and Church School
ONA Free Will Offering
11 am Mardi Gras Reception

PILLAR DEADLINE

Monday, Feb. 16

Tuesday, Feb. 17

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Ash Wednesday
6 am Early Birds
11 am Women United
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Ash Wed. Service

Thursday, Feb. 19

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

Friday, Feb. 20

Saturday, Feb. 21

Sunday, Feb. 22

10 am Worship and Church School
11 am Coffee Hour
11:45 Nancy Allenson Service
5:30 pm Percussion
6-7:30 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Feb. 23

Tuesday, Feb. 24

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, Feb. 25

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, Feb. 26

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

Friday, Feb. 27

Saturday, Feb. 28

Participants in Worship

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Sue Maier, Wes Novak
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Cndl: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Commons Grtr: George Snider
Narthex Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
Nursery: Peg Duffy
Counters: Nancy Stella, Anna Mary Fisher
Server: Joanne Cook, Dottie Farwell
Clean Up: Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Marianne Hoppel
Snow Hldr: Jesse Wade

FEBRUARY 8, 2015

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Heidi Spangler, Fred Pesek
Linda Kriynovich, Tina Ortiz
Acolyte: Briana Brown
Peace Cndl: Lucy Brown
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Commons Grtr: Carole Snider
Narthex Grtr: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Val Duffy
Counters: Bruce McCain, Donn Whyte
Servers: Robin Coyer-Westerberg,
Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Heidi Spangler
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Andrew Wilson
Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Cndl: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Commons Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Kara Reese
Counters: Carole Snider, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Anne Melfo, Bridget Sproul
Snow Herder: Jim Farwell

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Beth Rehling, David Ritchey
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: David Pastor
Commons Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Ann Kelley
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Dassie Matsuoka
Servers: Joy Garapic, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Tina Ortiz, Linda Kriynovich
Snow Herder: Dave Bernard

The Pillar

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