

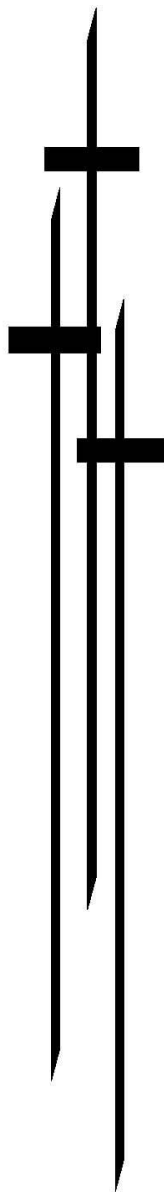
The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

JULY, 2015



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





**PASTOR'S
PONDERINGS...**

***...It's Not that
Complicated...***

An elderly man was praying one day, when he clearly heard a voice from heaven say, "John, all your life you have been a good, kind and faithful follower. I would like to reward your unselfish dedication, by granting something for you personally."

The man was stunned. He

reflected for a moment and then said, "Well, I always thought it would be great to have a bridge from Cleveland to Canada."

God replied, "That's a pretty big request. Could you perhaps ask for something a little less complicated?"

The man thought for a moment and then said, "Okay, how about having a Cleveland team win a national championship?"

God replied, "So, would you like that to be a four lane or an eight lane bridge?"

[Sorry Cavs fans....to soon?]

Actually, I think the Cavaliers had a tremendous season, and did remarkably well in the face of some enormous difficulties and challenges. What's more, their evolving teamwork and success had a positive and uplifting effect on much of our wider community. I saw strangers talking with one another in places and situations where there would normally just be aloof silence. There was a definite boost to local restaurants, bars, and businesses - as well as a noticeable lift in people's spirits and energy-levels. And even through the championship slipped away, the Cleveland sports fans' annual mantra, "Wait 'til next year!" actually feels like a slogan of genuine hope, rather than the usual sad sigh of facetious pessimism.

It is amazing how a simple game can have such a powerful impact on an individual, or on an entire region. Even if there is no direct connection, the ripple effect of the positive [or negative] energy can spread and grow and multiply. So while you or I might not be a superstar sports figure, our every-day attitude, energy level, and outlook can - and do - affect the world around us. This is why our "little acts of kindness" make a big difference. This is why something as simple as a smile, or the willingness to engage a stranger in conversation, may be the most important act of our day. This is also why our involvement in this Life-affirming BUCC Family of Faith can help inspire us all to work together to create a better world.

Building a bridge to Canada may be a bit much. Building bridges between people throughout our community, however, is absolutely achievable!

"All In" with You in Christ's Service,
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.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Vacation Bible School Is Coming!



We will be partnering again this year with the Independence Presbyterian Church to create an amazing and fun experience for our pre-school (3-5 years) and school-aged (K-5th grade) kids this summer. Save the date for the week of August 3rd - August 7th for "Camp Discovery" at the Independence Presbyterian Church. Feel free to

contact Kate Klonowski if you are interested in volunteering:
keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

FACILITIES

Our grateful thanks to Sam and his Sam Ali Improvements crew for being right on the spot in the early hours of Sunday, May 31, as water from three inches of rain started making its way into our church



basement. His observations as to where water entered and what we might do in the way of prevention are certainly appreciated by the Facilities Ministry as we work at preventative measures. In all, Sam dried and waxed the affected floors, pumped water out of the elevator pit, and replaced two damaged sump pumps and a drowned dehumidifier. He also met with the insurance

representative and will be submitting our claim.

Sam, you are irreplaceable! Who else would give up a night's sleep and his Sunday to care for our building this way? We hope you know how much you are appreciated.

The Facilities Ministry

MEMBERSHIP



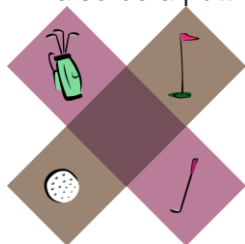
A Church Picnic is being planned for a Sunday in August. As soon as we have confirmation on our picnic space we will announce the date and destination. Hope you can attend this fun event.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The annual BUCC golf outing will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday, July 11th at:

The Windmill Lakes Golf Center
1511 East Aurora Rd (Route 82)
Macedonia, Ohio 44056

This event is open to everyone, young and old at any skill level! We will play 9 holes on a course where the longest hole is only 88 yards! There will also be a putting contest and skills competition.



The defending champions are Stu Bailey & Vickie Szabo!

Please contact David Pastor at 440.552.4403 or ridave@hotmail.com with any questions or comments.

OCWM

At the last OCWM meeting, the recent changes in operating changes and in personnel at Family Promise were reviewed. It was the



consensus of those at the meeting that BUCC will change to an inactive status until further information is received. Bob Chandler will serve as liaison with Family Promise.

On June 9th, Matt Wolbert and Bob Chandler attended the Brookside Cluster of Churches meeting, at which time the churches who are a member of this loosely organized group selected dates for serving hunger meals during the rest of

2015 through the first six months of 2016. The number of churches participating is decreasing, and only about 12 churches had representatives at the meeting. As a result, the dates for BUCC to serve hunger meals are September 20, 2015 (PRUMC), November 1, 2015 (Bethany), December 6, 2015 (Bethany), and June 26, 2016 (PRUMC). In the last few years, BUCC has served four meals per year. The above dates will result in four meals served in 2015, and two meals in the first half of 2016, as usual.

Vicki Szabo is coordinating an effort to improve the English language skills of students at the school where she teaches. This will be an ESL – type effort for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for students newly arrived in the USA. More information can be found in Vicki's article in this issue of the Pillar, and also after worship on July 5th and 19th. It is hoped that a significant number of BUCC members and friends will volunteer to help.

PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE WITHOUT LEAVING OHIO

The International Newcomer's Academy (INA) @ Thomas Jefferson is a Cleveland Metropolitan School District specialty school, serving



students in Pre-k through 12th grade. This unique school is home to over 600 students from all over Cleveland and literally, all over the world. They are immigrants and refugees who have been in America less than one year and have very limited or no English skills.

Many of these students have never had any formal education even in their own language. INA provides a 2 year English emergence program with the goal of developing their reading, writing and speaking skills enough that they can be placed in an English speaking neighborhood school.

I have been fortunate to work in this rewarding environment for the past 5 years. As an English only speaker, I am amazed as my students from places such as Nepal, Somalia, China or Albania begin the school year with no English and end the year able to carry on a conversation.

Since we are a unique school, our enrollment grows as families arrive in Cleveland. Our numbers can climb rapidly, leaving crowded classrooms and teachers scrambling to orient new students while addressing the needs of 2nd year, more advanced students.

We desperately need volunteers. We do have a few parent volunteers but as non-English speakers, their assistance is limited. I am hoping to develop a volunteer program at INA. As a volunteer, your only real qualification is to be able to speak English. Teachers will provide you with educational games, books to read, art projects, basic computer learning programs or small group activities to use with the students.

Our students are incredible. Their stories are sometimes heartbreaking, their smiles infectious and their desire for a better life inspirational. Would you prayerfully consider volunteering in our school?

This is a new venture for INA so as volunteers, we will work together to decide how often to volunteer, how many hours and what grade level fits your comfort level. I will be available to answer questions after church on July 5 and 19.

In Christ, Vicki Szabo

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship of the Church Grounds

The grounds are the first connection the church makes with the community and with visitors. The grounds can look cared for and inviting, or neglected and unappealing. Although lawn service is in the church's budget, the work involved in caring for the beds falls on the hands of the congregation. Thanks to the work of members who participate in the spring and fall cleanups, the basic care of the grounds is accomplished.



The Gardening Angels program began last year and resulted in great improvements to some areas. This program encouraged members to adopt a bed and maintain it throughout the year as their time and energy allowed. Thanks to Marla Corrado, Peg Duffy, the Demko Family, Jane Cribbs, Jeannette Kroeger, Jesse and Mindy Wade, and others for the difference they made last year.

The need continues! To participate in spring and fall cleanups, look for notices at those times of year from the Facilities Committee. During the growing season, any contribution of time toward weeding or selective trimming is appreciated. Please contact me at lander.km@gmail.com or 440-554-7971(evenings) and I can provide more direction if you are willing and able to give to the church in this visible way.

Thank you, Kathy Pastor

NOTES AND ASIDES

BICENTENNIAL QUILT UPDATE



Some very creative quilt squares have been contributed for the bicentennial quilt. The deadline has been extended to the end of summer. At that time the committee will begin putting the quilt together. If we missed asking you if you wanted to participate in the creation of this quilt by decorating a muslin square please contact Caroline Chandler (440-526-9714) or Anne Demko (330-659-6324).

BUCC BOOK DISCUSSION

CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING MORE PLEASANT?"



That's the title of the book we are talking about. We'll cover it July 6 @ 1:00 in the parlor (use side entrance). It is a memoir by Roz Chast. Next book is "Orphan Train" by Chistina Baker Kline, which can be picked up after the discussion. Questions--call Dot Bailey 440-526-4881.

IN SEARCH OF....



Ed Lusk is looking for a small barn to shoot scenes for a short film. The barn should be in good condition, rustic, and in a quiet or semi-remote area. If you know of a potential location please contact him at 440-655-1702. Thanks, Ed



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

July 1:	Donn Whyte
July 3:	Andrew Lightbody
July 9:	Jim Kaul
July 11:	Dottie Farwell
July 12:	Ryan Stewart
July 13:	Mary D'Agostino
July 14:	Jim Demko
	Evie Novak
July 15:	Dorie Gabor
July 21:	Joshua Tyler Anderson
	Bill Harris
	Nora Smith-Gagliano
July 25:	Cindy Burton
July 26:	Carol VanDuyne
July 27:	Anne Melfo
July 28:	Mac Hoppel
July 29:	George Costanzo
	Ann Toneff
Other July Birthdays:	Joe Began

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



FOOD PANTRY

Toothpaste, Shampoo, and Toilet Paper

A LETTER OF THANKS

WOMANKIND

Maternal and Prenatal Care Center

Dear Friends at Brecksville United Church of Christ,

We are overwhelmed at the generosity of everyone at Brecksville United Church of Christ. The **\$1,238.16** raised for Womankind through your baby bottle fundraiser means that we can continue to give:

Hope

A possibility a woman didn't think existed...understanding when she thought there was none...choices when she thought there weren't any.

Help

Free comprehensive prenatal care through 28 weeks...pregnancy test results a woman can trust...caring medical professionals who give her extra time and attention...the expertise of a licensed, independent social worker to provide professional counseling.

We give, because you give.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and most importantly, the women and families who benefit from your generosity, **THANK YOU** for all that you continue to make possible.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Boguski, Development Director

NEW ADDRESSES



Anna Mary Fisher
1239 Belvoir Rd.
South Euclid, OH 44121
216-381-5844

Doris Schmid
Grand Village Suites SA24
2610 East Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087
216-544-9754

WOMEN UNITED



PICNIC TIME - On Wednesday, July 15th we will meet at the Harriet Keeler Covered pavilion, across from the Nature Center in Brecksville Reservation, at 11:30 AM. Bring a sandwich and a healthy snack to share. Coffee and cold water provided. All are welcome.



DID YOU KNOW that the original church building was built without a basement? When a basement was added in the early 1900's to provide Sunday school space, it was necessary to install an extensive series of pipe-pillars to support all of the existing load points. These provided places for hanging curtains to make classrooms but also a maze of obstacles used by the students as a play area. It is said that our newsletter's name is a remnant of these pillars of our old church building.





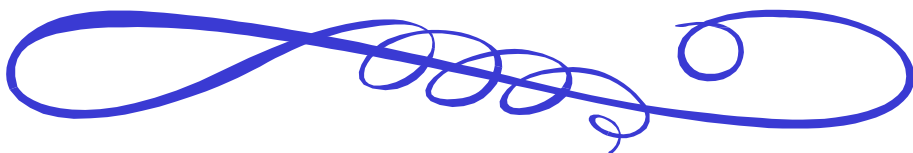
Pastor Dave Will Be On Vacation until July 5th. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor David Durkit at 216-832-3453.

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 and also available in the office on audio CDs for listening at home or in your car. **Thank You.**



BUCC CALENDAR JULY, 2015

Wednesday, July 1

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, July 2

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, July 3

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Sunday, July 5

10 am Worship and Church School

11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, July 6

1 pm Book Discussion/
Parlor

7 pm Spiritual Life

7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, July 7

Wednesday, July 8

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, July 9

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, July 10

Saturday, July 11

2 pm Golf Outing/
Windmill Lakes

Sunday, July 12

10 am Worship and Church School

11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, July 13

Tuesday, July 14

Wednesday, July 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

6 am Early Birds

11:30 Women United
Picnic Harriet
Keller Pavilion

Thursday, July 16

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, July 17

Saturday, July 18

Sunday, July 19

10 am Worship
Church School

11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, July 20

Tuesday, July 21

Wednesday, July 22

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, July 23

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, July 24

Saturday, July 25

Sunday, July 26

10 am Worship
Church School

11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, July 27

Tuesday, July 28

Wednesday, July 29

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, July 30

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, July 31

Participants in Worship

JULY 5, 2015

Lay Reader: Evie Novak
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Sue & Lindsey Maier
David Ritchey, Fred
Pesek
Acolyte: Briana Brown
Peace Candi: Lucy Brown
Sound: David Pastor
Comms Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Peg Duffy
Counters: Katy Pastor, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul

JULY 12, 2015

Lay Reader: Stu Bailey
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Heidi Spangler, Sue
Stenzel
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candi: Drew Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Jon Thompson
Narthex Grtr: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Nursery: Shauna Bigelow
Counters: Nancy Stella, Donn Whyte
Servers: Dottie Farwell
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor

JULY 19, 2015

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Tim Wallis, Kim Dessofoy
Dot Bailey, Tina Ortiz
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Candi: Carli Began
Sound: Dave Bernard
Comms Grtr: Jill Zedan
Narthex Grtr: Stu Bailey
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Stu Bailey, Jim Kaul
Servers: Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Anne Melo & Doug
Fawcett

JULY 26, 2015

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Ed Lusk, Dorie Gabor
Bob Chandler, Sam Koch
Ben Davis
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: Jim & Betty Kaul
Narthex Grtr: Dot Bailey
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jim Duffy, Bruce McCain
Servers: Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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Deadline for copy: The
fifteenth day of the month **Financial Secretary:** Joy Garapic
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content and space. **Pillar Editor:** Jeannette Kroeger
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FIRST CLASS

