

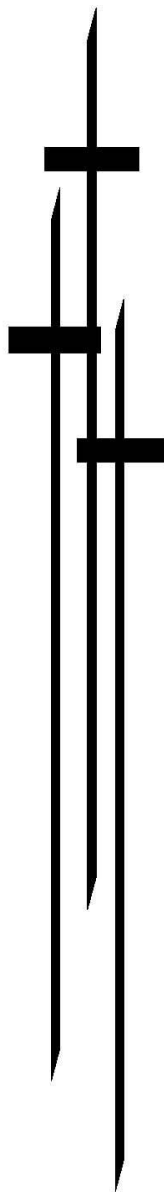
The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER, 2015



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





...on ***“Re-Focusing our Friendliness Factor”***...

If you were to ask just about anyone, “Is your church friendly?” most people would say, “Absolutely!” And they’d be right. Go into almost any church, and you’ll see the members greeting, smiling and talking with each other. The problem is, that when a first time visitor [or *“stranger”*] comes in, he or she is

often barely noticed. We members can be so engaged in catching-up with one another, that we fail to catch a glimpse of our newly arrived guests. Or we see that person, but simply continue our conversations, figuring that someone else will speak to them, or we’ll greet them later. We tend to forget how long even a minute can feel when we’re in a strange place - especially when surrounded by “friendly” people who seem to be ignoring us!

It’s important for us as Church members to think about how we meet, greet, and treat the “strangers” who come among us. It’s also important that we consider how people who are visiting us for the first time might feel as they wait to be greeted, or as they fumble-through some of those worship practices that are so familiar to us. Those people who have been personally invited by one of us - who have someone to greet them, sit with them and explain what’s happening - probably feel pretty welcome and at ease. And even those visitors who wander-in on their own may feel fairly comfortable, if they happen to have a Church background similar to ours. Of course, we do get those visitors who find us on our website or in a local publication, and bravely decide to check us out.

Oftentimes, it's because there's something happening in their lives that has triggered the desire for a spiritual or social connection: a move, a new job, a new child, or some personal problem or crossroad. These are the people who can really benefit from one of our member's personal attention and helpful hospitality.

For the most part, we at BUCC do a good job of spotting and welcoming our guests, but we can always strive to do better. Even if you're not sure if the person you see is a "first-timer" or an "old-timer", simply smiling, going up and saying "Hi, I'm Dave!" is a good way to break the ice. [Of course, if your name is Susan, it could be a bit awkward]. Some of the key times to be aware of those who visit us are when they first arrive [just walking through the door can be a big step for some]; pre-worship and announcement time [a chance to fill them in on what's happening and about to happen]; during the Passing of the Peace and Communion [briefly explain what's going on]; and when the worship service is over [help them move into our "Circle," personally invite them to Coffee Hour, walk with them down to Pilgrim Hall, and introduce them to others].

Perhaps the best way for us to be sensitive to those who are visiting, is to think back to a time when we ourselves were in a new place or situation. Think about how you felt; who helped you feel included; what they did; and how good that made you feel! We really are a "friendly church" - but it's important that each of us step-up our efforts, and watch for those visitors who come among us. If we do it right, we can help them feel that they are more than just visitors - that they truly are our welcomed guests!

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sunday September 13th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. all BUCC Youth ages 12 and up are invited to gather in Pilgrim Hall for our first Fall meeting. We'll spend some time catching-up, getting to know each other, play some fun and challenging games, share some snacks and some ideas about our plans for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend and feel free to bring a friend!

Sunday September 20th - Youth participation in our Hunger Meal at Pearl Road United Methodist Church.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT -
Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. This year we will be at a new [and closer] location - Furnace Run Metro Park .Our theme this year is "Evangelism: Not Nearly as Scary as Halloween!" [This Pillar's *Pastor's Ponderings* gives a glimpse of some of the things we will explore.] Our Retreat provides a great time get away in a beautiful setting to relax, refresh and get to know ourselves and one another better. Anyone interested in helping coordinate the food, games, music or other activities for this event - or would like to know more about it - please talk with Pastor Dave.

I Am My Church

My church is composed by people like me.

We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will generously support many good causes,
if I am a generous giver.

It will be a church of loyalty and love,
of compassion and care,

if I am filled with these same traits.

Gracious God, inspire me to be
all those things I want my church to be!

Author Unknown



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN ED



This year, we will have three classes as listed below. We will not be facilitating a class for the high school students due to lack of participants (darn them all for growing up and going off to college! :-)

Classes will start on **September 13th** (September 6th is Rally Day)

Early Elementary 4 yrs old -2nd Grade – Will meet in the 'Elementary' room, first classroom on the right in the education wing.

Later Elementary Grades 3-5 - Will meet in the 'Secondary' Room, second classroom on the left after the nursery.

Middle School Grades 6-8 - Will meet in the 'Jr/Sr High School' room, last door on the right on the 2nd and 4th (5th if there is one) Sundays of the month. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays, when we have communion, they should pick up a worksheet at the head usher's table. They will stay in service and complete the sheet for discussion the following week

Children 3 and under should go to the nursery, 2nd door on the left, after the bathrooms.

Interested in teaching? We can always use help! Please contact Sue Maier (Eyerienne@aol.com) or Kate Klonowski (keightykay@gmail.com).

OCWM



Food donations continue to appear in the upper commons, thanks to BUCC members and friends, including St. Bridget's Community. In June, 35 bags of food, 3 bags of soap and cleaning supplies, and 1 bag of toiletries were delivered to Brookside Hunger Center. In August 35 bags of food, and 2 pairs of shoes were delivered to St Herman's as an aid in their time of low supplies. Thanks go to Dave Bernard for his efforts in

deliveries.

The dates for hunger meals for the next few months were selected at a meeting of the Brookside Cluster of Churches in June. The dates for BUCC are:

September 20, 2015 at PRUMC

November 2, 2015 at Bethany

December 6, 2015 at Bethany

April 17, 2016 at PRUMC

A sign-up board will appear in the narthex at the appropriate times.

Aluminum cans continue to be donated and redeemed. In June and July, 98 pounds of cans were redeemed, yielding \$41.00 for SARA.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

BUCC has recently installed the latest, up-to-date version of the Williams personal sound system. It may just be your answer if you are concerned (1) that the quality of sound deteriorates between the speakers and your pew in the sanctuary, or (2) that your hearing is getting poorer but not yet bad enough to buy hearing aids, or (3) that you have hearing aids and you want to hear even better or (4) that you are bothered by the route 82 traffic noises or any noise generated by your pew mates during worship.



We have receivers for you to borrow which pick up the FM audio signal transmitted in our sanctuary every Sunday by our sound system. Just plug in your favorite Walkman head phones or any other unit with a 3.5mm plug and you are ready for a new hearing experience. Don't know if you want to do this? Then try it out; borrow one of the church's head phones and "test drive" a Williams receiver during a worship service.

If you already have hearing aids, an even better experience awaits you. Simply have your audiologist activate the teleloop option of you hearing aids, borrow a receiver with a teleloop and experience sound quality you never would have expected. The sound remains electronic all the way from the speaker's mic to your ear drum.

Members of the Spiritual Life Ministry, along with Max Roha, are ready to help you get started. Check with them before the service on any Sunday. Your questions are gladly answered.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BICENNNTENIAL MINISTRY



The next meeting of the Bicentennial Ministry will take place on Wednesday, September 23 at 7 pm.

Summer's easing into fall and it's time to start fleshing out all of the great ideas we've come up with.

Be sure to join us in the Parlor with your sleeves rolled up.

BUCC BOOK DISCUSSION



BUCC Book Discussion will meet Oct. 5, 1:00 p.m. in the parlor discussing *TIME KEEPER* by Mitch Albom. Albom also wrote *TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE* & *FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN*

FOOD PANTRY



Cereal



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

September 1:	Phyllis Hassler Dan Renovetz
September 3:	Joanne Cook
September 6:	Erika Kolar Kirk Sanderson
September 7:	Betty Kaul
September 10:	Ryan Smith
September 11:	Kathy Smith
September 12:	Jill Zedan
September 14:	Rebecca Anderson Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer
September 15:	Jane Cribbs
September 17:	Natalie Corrado Valerie Tyler Holden Paul Esser
September 22:	Nancy Stella
September 23:	Doug Allenson Carrie Coyer-Westerberg Matt Wolbert
September 26:	David Debick Annie Demko
September 28:	Jayden Kolar
September 29:	Nichole Smith

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

MUSIC



At Brecksville UCC we strive to be welcoming and inclusive in all of our ministries, and this is especially true for music. Thanks to the participation of dozens of BUCC members and friends, our vocal and instrumental ensembles and soloists are able to provide music for worship services on a regular basis. Here is a list of starting dates/times/ensemble

descriptions for the 2015-2016 church season:

Adult Choir (high school and older welcome): First rehearsal is Thurs. Sept. 10 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The choir's primary role is to lead the congregation's hymn-singing at worship and to present an anthem for reflection every Sunday. Ability to read music helpful but not required. A great opportunity to experience eclectic music, affirming fellowship and spiritual growth.

Joyful Noise Choir (K-5th grade): First practice is Thurs. Sept. 10 from 5:30-6:15. Young people in this group learn a variety of fun songs which we present at Sunday worship every 3-4 weeks. Through music, the children learn about Jesus, Bible stories, Christian values, the church season, etc; during the last part of practice we usually play a game or do some sort of activity, arts and crafts, etc. CDs are distributed to make the learning process easier for the kids.

Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble (youth-adult): First rehearsal is Wed. Sept. 9 from 4:30-5:00. This instrumental group presents music at Sunday worship ~ once a month. Some hymns and songs are familiar, others more contemporary, some international in origin. Ability to play recorder or dulcimer helpful, but Dave D. is glad to teach beginners. (Times for these free lessons will depend on availability of participants/teacher.)

Youth Percussion Group (6th grade-adult): First practice is scheduled for Sunday Sept. 13 from 5:30-6:00 before youth ministry at 6. This ensemble accompanies music at Sunday worship as needed, including prelude, anthem, offertory, communion, and postlude pieces. Rehearsal schedule will change from month to month, so check the Pillar and weekly bulletins for dates.



Instrumentalists (youth-adult): If you play an instrument fairly well and would like to share your musical gifts during worship, please contact Dave and let him know you're interested. Instrumental parts can be written for you and we can rehearse as much or as little as you'd like ahead of time. If we have enough instruments to form

a small ensemble, this would be another fun option.

Beginner harmonica lessons (youth-adult): We will be offering beginner harmonica lessons this year for anyone interested in learning how to play (Dave D. is still learning the instrument himself, so don't be inhibited about trying!) Two longer-range goals: to form a small G harmonica ensemble, and/or to play along with the recorder/dulcimer ensemble, which is tuned to G major. Practice times for these lessons will depend on availability of participants/teacher. Contact Dave if you're interested. Instruments and music will be provided by the music department.

Seasonal Choir (high school-adult): Seasonal choir helps reinforce the regular choir for our annual Christmas cantata and Holy Week. This fall we'll begin weekly practices for the cantata on Thurs. Oct. 8 from 7:00-8 p.m. Rehearsal CDs for each vocal part are provided.

Private piano lessons (youth-adult): Private half-hour lessons will be offered on Wed. and Thurs. afternoons starting Sept. 9 and 10. Please contact Dave to schedule day/time for you or your child(ren).

I'm looking forward to the upcoming church season, during which we'll begin celebrating our 200th anniversary as a congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, or other ideas relating to our music program, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanks, Dave Debick

A NOTE OF THANKS



A Note of Thanks....

To the many members who extended sympathy and support on the loss of my mother. The beautiful cards and kind words were overwhelming. I feel peaceful and grateful for my mother's life and for this congregation.

Kathy Pastor

We Send our Sincerest Thanks to:

Dorie Gabor for making the beautiful flower arrangement for the Church Alter in celebration of our 67th Wedding Anniversary.

David Debick for performing the Widor Toccata, one of our very favorite pieces for the Organ with its joyous sonorities.

Jim Kaul for his Blessing for us during Service.

Glory to God for all our Blessings.

Bill & Ann Toneff

WOMEN UNITED



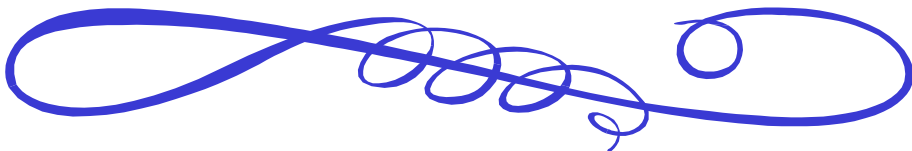
Our next Meeting is on September 16th in the Parlor at 11:30AM. Bring lunch and a friend. Dorie Gabor will present a few of the basics of floral arranging. Coffee and tea are provided.



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



BUCC CALENDAR SEPTEMBER, 2015

Tuesday, Sept 1

Wednesday, Sept 2

6 am Early Birds
4:30-5 Recorder/
 Dulcimer

Thursday, Sept 3

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, Sept 4

Saturday, Sept 5

Sunday, Sept 6

10 am Worship and
 Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, Sept 7

LABOR DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, Sept 8

Wednesday, Sept 9

6 am Early Birds
4:30-5 Recorder/
 Dulcimer
7 pm Council

Thursday, Sept 10

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

Friday, Sept 11

Saturday, Sept 12

Sunday, Sept 13

RALLY DAY

10 am Worship
 Church School
11 am Coffee Hour
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Sept 14

7 pm Facilities

Tuesday, Sept 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Wednesday, Sept 16

6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women
 United -
 Parlor
4:30-5 Recorder/
 Dulcimer

Thursday, Sept 17

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

Friday, Sept 18

Saturday, Sept 19

Sunday, Sept 20

10 am Worship and
 Church School
11 am Coffee Hour
 Hunger
 Meal PRUMC

Monday, Sept 21

Tuesday, Sept 22

11am Cook Book
 Committee
 Parlor

Wednesday, Sept 23

6 am Early Birds
4:30-5 Recorder/
 Dulcimer
7 pm Bicentennial
 Ministry

Thursday, Sept 24

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

Friday, Sept 25

Saturday, Sept 26

Sunday, Sept 27

10 am Worship and
 Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, Sept 28

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Wednesday, Sept. 30

6 am Early Birds
4:30-5 Recorder/
 Dulcimer

Participants in Worship

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Stu & Dot Bailey
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: David Bernard
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Narthex Grtr: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Betty Kaul, Nancy Stella
Servers: Joy Garapic, Dorie Gabor
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Jim Duffy, Sam Koch
Sue Maier, Lindsey Maier
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Candle: Carli Began
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Donn Whyte, David
Pastor
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Caroline
Chandler
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Kate Klonowski, Sue
Maier

SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Linda Kriynovich, Fred
Pesek, David & Kathy
Pastor
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Lenore Harris
Narthex Grtr: **see weekly Bulletin**
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Indira Bigelow
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Stu Bailey
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridgett Sproul
Snacks: Gina Cook, Anne Melfo

SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Lay Reader: Stu Bailey
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Tim Wallis, Kim Dessofoy,
Beth Rehling, Heidi
Spangler
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Peg Duffy
Counters: Jim Kaul & Kathy Pastor
Servers: Heidi Spangler, Kathleen
Stewart
Clean Up: Anne Melfo, Doug
Fawcett
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Kathleen
Stewart

The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

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FIRST CLASS

