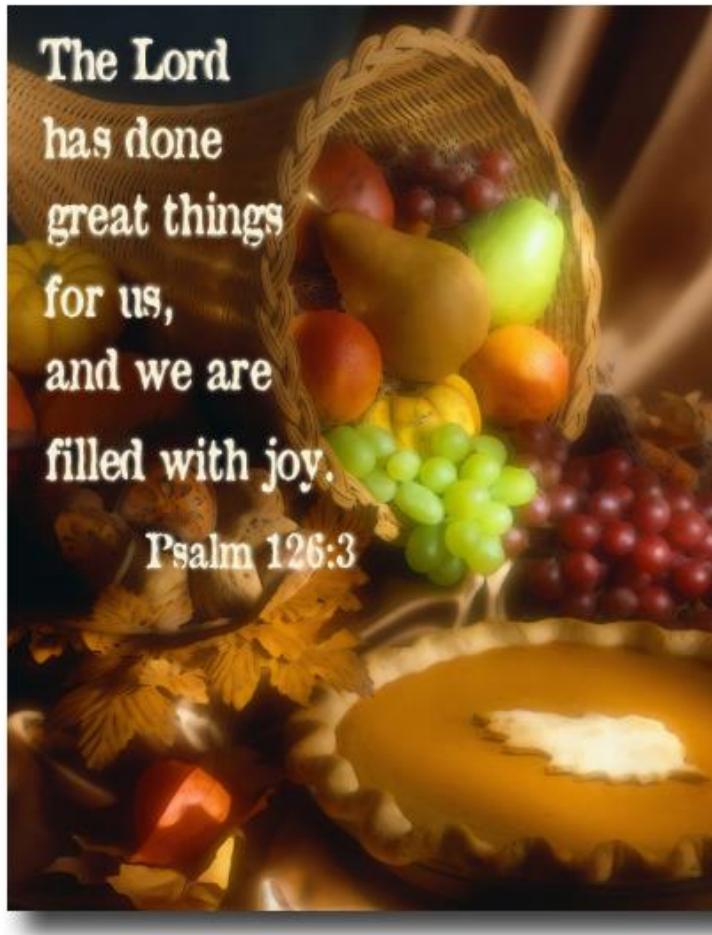


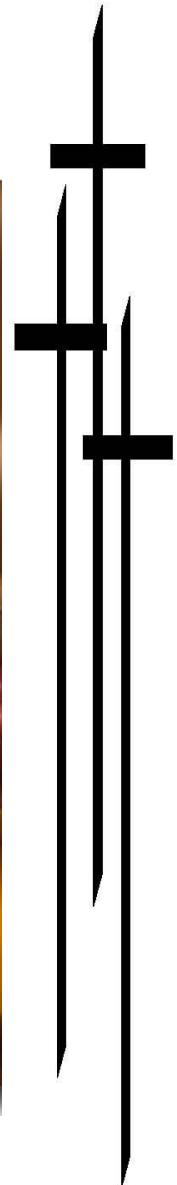
The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER, 2015



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





...on the Gods We Choose...

One of my favorite quotes from Author Ann Lamott is this: "You can safely assume that you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." I've even had that quote posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office for several years. This morning, much to my surprise, that familiar quote

spoke to me on a different level than it previously had.

As most of you know, my sermons tend to highlight the Holy One as being a God of Love. [O.K., I'll admit it, I'm a hack - a one-note narrator who could preach about the destruction of the world and still end up concluding that God is Love.] I come to this conclusion primarily because of the love that I see in the person of Jesus Christ, and because of the love that I see and experience in the lives of Christ's faithful followers. Yet I also see within my own life, a deep desire for a God who takes charge and punishes the wicked - a kind of Sacred Super-Hero who intervenes to quickly correct and control the madness of this world. My guess is, that most people on this planet probably feel the same way. This brings us back to the Lamott quote, and the problem of who the wicked truly are [our enemies, of course!]

So this is how Ann Lamott's words struck me differently today: If so many people like me, who are inclined to desire a god who is like one of Marvel Comic's *Avengers*, continue to be drawn back to the image of a Holy One who is Pure and Perfect Love, then perhaps it's because Pure and Perfect Love is the Divine Reality.

In spite of our human need for a controlling and punitive deity, we intuitively sense that the Authentic Source of our lives is far superior to that, and far better than our petty angers, jealousies, fears, and fantasies of revenge. It is humbling to admit it, but when compared to what the vast majority of us would come up with, the Holy One who Jesus Christ envisions and embraces seems like the real deal. And I'm perfectly fine with that!

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.

This Year's Community Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday evening, November 22, at Independence Presbyterian Church. The time, either 7:00 or 7:30 pm, has yet to be set.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

COME AND HELP!!



The annual fall clean-up of the church grounds will be held on Saturday, November 14. Come as early as 8:30 or whenever you can to help clean up the leaves and tidy whatever else needs attention. We have some tools, but it's best if you bring your favorites. Gas driven leaf blowers are very useful. As usual, plenty of exercise, fresh air, fellowship and refreshments will be available. The Facilities Ministry will have a sign-up sheet at the next few coffee hours.

FINANCE



Donations

A check for \$860.25 was sent to the Western Reserve Association for the Neighbors in Need (NIN) collection.

NIN is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of the funds support The Council for American Indian Ministries. Two-thirds is used

by the UCC to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

OCWM

The last hunger meal was on September 20th at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. This was a first, because the meal was a takeout only. So, we made sandwiches (about 180 of them!) and added salad and dessert. About 90 persons were served, including seconds and take outs. Thank you to all who helped by making sandwiches, preparing the salad and providing cookies. This also was the first time those being served mingled with the servers in the kitchen, as the line moved past the salad, then the sandwiches, then the dessert, and finally a bag of chips. This was an interesting departure from the usual way hunger meals are prepared and served.

A photograph of a blue globe showing the Americas, set against a background of a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. Several hands of different skin tones are reaching up from the bottom of the frame towards the globe.

The next hunger meal will be at Bethany UCC on Sunday, November First. The menu is not yet decided. We expect to provide about 60 meals. The one after that will be also at Bethany UCC on Sunday, December 6th. These meals will bring the meals provided by BUCC members and friends to a total of four during 2015, which is the usual number of meals served in any one year.

Also, a large “thank you” goes to those persons providing aluminum cans so faithfully. At last count, about 4035 pounds of cans and other metals have been redeemed, yielding about \$1764.00.

And lastly, the donation of food items, toiletries, dental supplies, school supplies, and other items by BUCC members and friends is greatly appreciated. Happily, the donations have risen in the last few months. This helps meet the needs in the community, which have also been rising lately.

Questions? 526-9714

SPIRTUAL LIFE

ADVENT BOOK



As of ***The Pillar*** printing, there are still a few passages available. Please see Jon Thompson for more details.

The deadline for the 2015-16 Advent Book is **Sunday, November 8** – please email your items to Jeannette at: buccoh@sbcglobal.net Thank You.



ILCU

Happy Autumn! Colorful mums have been delivered to members who can't always be with us for services on Sunday. Into our lives a bit of color is heartily received in joy."

STEWARDSHIP

The following are the words that our Confirmands presented to the Congregation on Sunday October 11, 2015. Enjoy!

Who Is God? *Lindsey Maier*

Let's start off with an analogy. The description of who, what, and why god is here is like a cookie. Just as there are many types of cookies, there are many ways to describe God. This is mine.



To me, God is not a being, yet somehow, God manages to squeeze his way into our lives every single day. He is in the nature around us, he is in the tiny little tree trying to poke its way through the cracks in cement in a large city.

He shows us that even when there's a large, thick, wall of cement blocking our way, when we are determined enough, we can break through and not only live, but thrive. God is in the baby's delicate small fingers squeezing and wrapping around our thumb. He is the voice in our heads telling us to be kind, helpful, and respectful to all others that we meet.

I often ask myself that if god is so powerful, then why does he stand by and let all of these horrible things happen around the world, such as in Syria? In the past few months, I have figured out the answer to this question that has been eating away at me. He does not stand by. He encourages us to send supplies, pray, let others in, and do everything that we can to help. In that, I think God is a pretty spectacular guy.

Who is Jesus?

In simplification, Jesus is the one who gave his life for our sins; He is God's son. Yet I know, he cannot be simplified that easily. He is the one who tells us, "Stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone". I suppose, in a way, he is God on Earth. He set an example on how we should live day to day: Compassionately. Jesus is there walking by my side when I am happy, excited, and joyful.

He is also carrying me through the times when I am not strong enough to carry myself. Just as I will never leave my friend's sides when they are going through a rough time, I know that Jesus, as all of our friends, will never leave mine. Knowing this, I have complete faith that he will never leave yours, either.

What is the Church? (To me)

Back In 2008, I started begging to go to church. This is the one my parents and I chose in 2010. At the age of 8, I started learning about God, Jesus, and the Bible, yet I doubt that those are the most important things I've learned in all these years. What I've learned is how to be loving and compassionate towards others. I learned the joy of coming together as a group (almost) every Sunday to do one thing together- Love, Learn, and grow as one with others of the same belief. I learned to accept everyone, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, religion, culture, personality, age, race, loyalty, or favorite type of cookie.

I know for a fact that I am not done learning about God, and that I will never be done learning. I'm just happy to know I'll be learning with and among you all.

With Lots of Love, Lindsey Maier

What is God?
Ian Stewart

God is so much more than a what. God is not only a what, but a where, a who, a when, and a why. Where is God? God is everywhere; he is in

 the good and in the bad. God is always there with us. Some people wonder why God "allows" all of these horrible things to happen. Did God truly "allow" it though? For instance, the Oregon shooting that recently happened. I feel that God was there with that troubled man, who entered that school. God was there trying to help him resist what he was about to do. The man was so fixed on going into that building and doing what he was going to do, that he completely ignored God's signs.

Who is God? This one is very similar to, what is God? I will get to that later in my questions. I think that God is everything good in the world. God can be as big as Christmas, or as small as finding an open parking space. When is God among us? As I have already stated God is always with us. He is there in the good and the bad. He is always with us and it comes down to our choice to listen to him. Why is God here? This is one of the things that I can't wrap my head around. Why has someone as great and as holy as our God come to this life to guide us? How are we worthy? I mean, does God not have better places to be? I am forever grateful that he is among us. But I can't grasp why quite yet, hopefully through being a part of this congregation I will learn.

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God in the form of a man. When God teaches us lessons, he does it through spirit. He will make you feel things and try to show you signs. When Jesus was put on this earth he was God. He taught God's teachings in the complete opposite way. You could physically see what he was trying to show you. He could tell you what he wanted you to know. He made a blind man see, for crying out loud. And how do I know that God is with all of us? Jesus is helped people. Jesus is God. God is here to help. And everyone needs at least some help, even if it's to the slightest degree. Therefore, God must be with everyone, helping them. He was there to spread God's good word.

What is the Church?

The dictionary definition of church is: A building used for public Christian worship. Which essentially it is, but, it's so much more.

The church is a place where everyone feels welcome. It doesn't matter who you are or where you came from, you are accepted. I don't think that the church is a place, but instead a group. The church is the people who worship God anywhere. Any group of God's people who come together to worship God is part of the church. The church is a huge amount of people, and we are just a fraction of the whole church. And I am proud to be the newest member of the church.

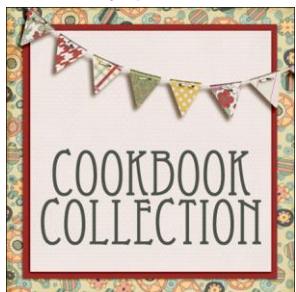
Ian Stewart

NOTES AND ASIDES

BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK?

So many plans, so many good ideas, a great, hardworking committee and we're underway. The cookbook will be ready in time for Mother's Day gift giving. It will be filled with over 300 amazing old and new recipes from your kitchens & the kitchens of your friends & relatives, extra pages of nutritional information & a fun & fact filled history of our church. And because this is a fundraiser for the bicentennial festivities it will be published for under \$5.00 and sell for \$10.00. We're excited and we hope you will be as well.



HOW CAN YOU HELP? SO HAPPY YOU ASKED!

We need your recipes together with any fun comments about them and we need people with computers to type the recipes. Our deadline for receiving your recipes is the middle of January 2016 which may seem a long way off but as we have to type & proof them, it really isn't. There is a box on a small table in the narthex where you can put your recipes. If you can help with the typing, please contact Tina Ortiz 304-268-4866 or culinarybee@gmail.com. Tina will give you all the information. In the meantime talk with friends, relatives & neighbors and let them know their recipes will appear along with their names in the ***very best cookbook.***

Any questions? Call or email me. carole.snider.952@gmail.com
330-468-4774.

BICENTENNIAL QUILT

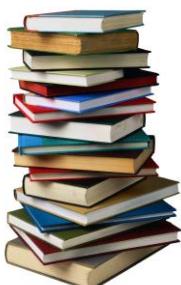
The bicentennial quilt is being assembled as of this writing. The



question of covering the expense of the quilting was answered by a decision to raffle off an existing quilt. The raffle quilt will be on view in the upper commons. The usual 6 tickets for \$5.00 (or \$1.00 apiece) will be the price, and the raffle tickets will be available during November.

The quilt to be raffled is a 62-inch square throw. It has an eight point star in the center surrounded by geometric shapes and is made of batik fabrics.

Also Dorie Gabor has contributed an attractive collectible doll to be raffled off. The doll is about 14 inches tall in the original box, and has porcelain feet, hands, and head and a cloth body. It is labeled Brinn's Collectible, and was made in 1986. It also is musical, as it plays the Theme from Love Story.



BUCC BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, Nov. 2 @ 1:00 in parlor for the last discussion of this series, which is Regina Brett's GOD NEVER BLINKS. The discussion will also focus on determining good columnists.



FOOD PANTRY

Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin,etc.



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

November 2:

Miriam Rosewicz

November 3:

Mike Westerberg

Marietta Davis

Eliza Jane Kolar

Dassie Matsuoka

Kara Rees

Evelyn Duffy

November 4:

Melissa Lund

November 9:

Susan Stenzel

Amelia Tyler

November 13:

Dan Maier

November 14:

Joe Gagliano

November 17:

Caroline Chandler

Andrew Wilson

November 19:

Travis Anderson

November 22:

Tim Wallis

November 23:

Wes Novak

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

MUSIC

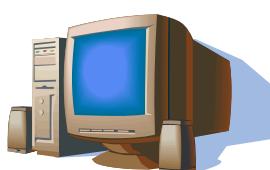
On Sunday November 29 at 4:00 p.m., BUCC will host the Autana Trio, featuring violinist Ruben Rengel, cellist Anna Hurt, and pianist Yuri Noh. The ensemble will play works by Bach and Mendelssohn. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program.

In May of 2015, the Autana Trio captured the Bronze Medal at the Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition. The members met in August of 2014 through their studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music,



where they were selected to participate in the Advanced Piano Trio Program, directed by cellist Sharon Robinson of the acclaimed Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio. Through this program, they have worked with musicians such as Jaime Laredo, Joel Krosnick, Noah Bendix-Balgley, Philip Setzer, Vivian Weilerstein and Paul Schenly. These collaborations have led to many

performance opportunities in the New York, Detroit, and Cleveland areas, where the trio has gained a reputation for musical virtuosity and depth. Coming together from three different parts of the world, South Korea, Venezuela, and the Western United States, the Autana Trio combines varied cultural backgrounds to provide rich and unique perspectives for its audiences.



If anyone has a spare computer they'd like to donate for use in the music office, please contact Dave Debick or Jim Duffy.

WOMEN UNITED



Hi Ladies of BUCC and friends. Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 11:30 AM. Jan Renovetz will be leading us in making paper angels from the used Christmas cards she has been collecting. The angels will be given to the residents and patients of Heartland Hospice at Christmas.

Please remember to bring a SCISSORS, a sandwich or a bag lunch. Coffee and tea 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 NOVEMBER, 2015

Sunday, Nov. 1

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour/
"Day of the Dead"
Hunger Meal

Monday, Nov. 2

1 pm Book Discussion

Tuesday, Nov. 3

10:30 am CWRU

Wednesday, Nov. 4

6 am Early Birds
4:30-5 Recorder/Dulc.
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, Nov. 5

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 Joyful Noise
7:00 Seasonal
Choir
8:00 Choir

Friday, Nov. 6

Saturday, Nov. 7

Sunday, Nov. 8
10 am Worship
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, Nov. 9

7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, Nov. 10

11 am Leadership
Develop. – Library

Wednesday, Nov. 11

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

Thursday, Nov. 12

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 Joyful Noise
7:00 Seasonal
Choir
8:00 Choir

Friday, Nov. 13

Saturday, Nov. 14

Sunday, Nov. 15 **PILLAR DEADLINE**

10 am Worship and
Church School
**11 am Stewardship
Banquet**

Monday, Nov. 16

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Wednesday, Nov. 18

6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women United
7 pm Bicentennial

Thursday, Nov. 19

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 Joyful Noise
7:00 Seasonal
Choir
8:00 Choir

Friday, Nov. 20

Saturday, Nov. 21

Sunday, Nov. 22

10 am Worship and
Church School

Decorate for Christmas after Service

11 am Coffee Hour
5:30pm Youth
Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Nov. 23

Tuesday, Nov. 24

10:30 am CWRU

Wednesday, Nov. 25

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, Nov. 26

HAPPY THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, Nov. 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, Nov. 28

Sunday, Nov. 29

Advent Begins

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour
4 pm Autana Trio Free
Concert

Monday, Nov. 30

Participants in Worship

NOVEMBER 1, 2015

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: Dot & Stu Bailey Linda Kriynovich, Jim Duffy
Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha, Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Shauna Bigelow
Counters: Nancy Stella, Marge Culver
Servers: Joanne Cook, Dorie Gabor
Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Kate Klonowski, Beth Rehling

NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: Beth Rehling, David Ritchey
Peace Candle: Briana Brown
Sound: Lucy Brown
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Jon Thompson
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Servers: Jan Renovetz, Bruce McCain
Clean-Up: Joy Garapic, Julie Bernard
Snacks: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Heidi Spangler, Anne Melfo

NOVEMBER 15, 2015

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Acolyte: Joanne Cook, Sam Koch
Peace Candle: Julian Davis
Sound: Garrett Demko
Comns Grtr: Mike Westerberg
Narthex Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Flowers: George Snider
Nursery: Thanksgiving
Counters: Caroline Chandler
Servers: Carole Snider, Donn Whyte
Clean-Up: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Snacks: All
Thanksgiving Dinner

NOVEMBER 22, 2015

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Caroloe & George Snider
Bridget & Chad Sproul
Acolyte: Ben Rehling
Peace Candle: Indira Bigelow
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Gina or Jon Cook
Counters: David Pastor, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Marge Culver, Anne Melfo
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Gina Cook, Marilyn Wrights

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Heidi Spangler, Drew Wilson
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Evan Merritt
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: George Snider
Narthex Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Jim Duffy, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Tina Ortiz

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville United Church of Christ

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