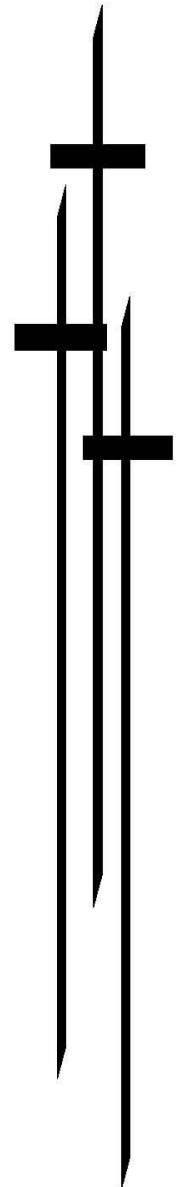


# The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

**JANUARY, 2016**



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



...*We Don't Look a Day Over 199...*

...and yet, here we are pushing 200! As we begin this new Calendar year of 2016, we enter the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the founding of Brecksville United Church of Christ. Even though the UCC wasn't formed until 1957, the forward-thinking attitude and bold witness of our modern-day denomination was clearly evident in the lives and faith of the hearty

Congregationalists and Presbyterians who first gathered here to worship. Just thirty-four years after the American Revolution, these men and women who planted our church's roots carried a spirit of independence and openness which recognized that there was still "more truth and light yet to break forth out of God's Holy Word."\*\* And just forty-five years before the issue of slavery would thrust our nation into a Civil War, the abolitionist stance of our early church members would be clearly expressed in both word and deed. From the very beginning, this community of faith has stood-up for those people who society in general was not ready to welcome, affirm or embrace.

Fast-forward 175 years. In 1991, televangelist Pat Robertson establishes the "American Center for Law and Justice" - an organization whose sole purpose is to fiercely fight against the basic equality that LGBT people are seeking in employment, housing, adoption, and marriage rights. That is just one of a multitude of religious organizations that will spend millions to "Keep America safe from...these perverted homosexuals who absolutely hate everything that decent, God-fearing citizens stand for."\*\*\* Fortunately, 1991 is also the same year that the compassionate and forward-thinking members of BUCC declare this congregation to be "Open and Affirming" of LGBT people.

And in October 2004, one month before 62% of Ohio residents vote to pass a State Constitutional amendment banning same-gender marriages, BUCC members vote to call an openly gay man to serve as their Pastor. [I understand he's still around!]

Our Faith may be 2,000 years old. Our Congregation may be 200 years old. Thankfully, however, our understanding and practice of the all-encompassing compassion of Jesus Christ continues to evolve and grow from generation to generation. As we usher in our congregation's 200<sup>th</sup> year of ministry, we celebrate a storied and remarkable past. And because of that unique past, we are poised on the edge of a truly promising future. At times throughout our history, this church may have seemed "way out there" in the eyes of our surrounding culture.

Thankfully, however, society eventually catches-up! In the meantime, as long as you and I remain faithful to Christ's call to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, we will continue to be blessed and to be a blessing to others.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Dave

[\* Words of Pastor John Robinson in his farewell address to the Pilgrims upon their departure from Holland in 1620. \*\* Words of Jerry Falwell in 1999.]

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**

### **COUNCIL**



"Every month at Council we make room for a short devotion. I asked Carole Snider to contribute in November and her thoughts were so lovely that I thought you might enjoy them, too. Betsey Wilson"

### **COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 2015**

Shortly after our last meeting I was doing a little work in our flower garden and it was an absolutely beautiful day and I was doing something i love to do – playing in the earth and I was so grateful for those moments.

And then I started wondering how I got to be so lucky. And, of course, there is no answer to that – the luck of the draw, whatever. So then I began to think about how I came by my love of gardening and that had an answer. I had 2 wonderful grandfathers. One loved flowers and the beauty of well-planned and laid out gardens and walkways – for him symmetry and order was important. My other grandfather loved growing fruits & vegetables – a tad of wildness in his raspberry, blackberry & gooseberry bushes and always surprises in the vegetable patch. Very different but very loving people.

And I give thanks for them and for all who came before us and guided and, I believe, still guide us and I give thanks for all of you around this table who give so generously of your time and talents and I feel so incredibly blessed.

## FACILITIES



We had a great turn-out for our Fall Clean-up & Leaf Management Saturday. Nine adults and six kids showed up to lend a hand. MANY THANKS to: Joe Began, Dave Bernard, Jane Cribbs, Drew, Garrett and Jim Demko, Jim Farwell, Dotie Faust, Micky, Victor and Doug Fawcett, Wes Novak, and Ian, Ryan and Dan Stewart.

Facilities would also like to thank a very special person who worked all summer weeding the flower beds. Her name is Dotie Faust and I don't know what we would have done without her. THANK YOU Dotie.

## MEMBERSHIP



Our First event of 2016 will be a "mid-winter, fight the winter blues" Potluck on Sunday January 10, 2016. Comfort Foods are encouraged!

A sign-up sheet will be available starting December 27!

## NEWS FROM OCWM

The major activities during 2015 were centered around redemption of aluminum cans and provision of hunger meals. This was in addition to the receipt of designated offerings, and the delivery of donated food and other items to Brookside Hunger Center and Community Corner Hunger Center.



During 2015, a little over 473 pounds of aluminum cans plus some other metals were redeemed, yielding over \$228.00 for SARA. Since this effort began in 2002, over 4160 pounds of aluminum cans plus other metals have been redeemed, yielding over \$1830.00 for SARA and other mission outreach activities.

Four hunger meals were prepared and provided during 2015 – two at Pearl Road United Methodist Church and two at Bethany UCC. All told, about 445 meals were prepared and served to about 220 persons. The difference between the number of meals prepared and the number of persons served is due to second and takeaway meals. On one or two occasions, food left over was delivered to St. Herman's that day to aid in their provision of meals.

A large “thank you” goes to BUCC members and friends who so generously provided food and other items for delivery to Brookside and Community Corner. This also includes those persons who kept the mitten tree alive and well. To date, the tree has “filled up” twice and the hats and mittens have been delivered to the hunger center along with the food items. An exact count of items delivered has not been kept, but at least 237 bags and boxes were delivered in 2015. This includes toiletries, dental items, and other things not covered by food stamps. The hunger centers value the items above at about 10 dollars each, but the true value exceeds that by far.

Also in 2015, BUCC again received the five designated denomination offerings – CUE, Strengthen The Church, One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors In Need, and the Christmas Offering. In addition, a women's offering was received. This reflects the awareness of BUCC members and friends of the needs of others.

## **NOTES AND ASIDES**

### **FOOD PANTRY**



January              Canned Fruit & Vegetables



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

January 9:	Dylan Rees
January 12:	Zachary Kolar
January 18:	Jan Renovetz
January 24:	Jim Pay
January 30:	Jonathan Cook
January 31:	Cliff Cribbs

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

## KITCHEN



Our kitchen has been gifted with some wonderful items. We now have Three (3) permanent warming trays that can be used when serving potlucks or receptions. We also have Two (2) roasters that can also be used for the same purpose. Both of these items can be found

in Pilgrim Hall above where we keep our table cloths. Please continue to store in their original boxes. Thank you.

## MUSIC



Joyful Noise and Adult Choir will resume practices on Thursday January 7 at 5:30 and 7:30 respectively. It would be wonderful to see some new faces in both of these groups! If you or your young one(s) enjoy singing, please consider coming on January 7 to experience what we do together in these choirs. **(Continued next page)**

It's an invigorating combination of music, spirituality, fellowship, good humor, teamwork and learning, all through preparation for our upcoming Sunday anthems. (And no one expects anyone to sound like Julie Andrews or Luciano Pavarotti!) Come and check us out. Contact Dave Debick or current members of the choirs with any questions.

I want to express my deep appreciation for everyone who contributed to the success of our 2015 Christmas Cantata - singers, instrumentalists, narrators, sound technician, program designer and anyone else I'm forgetting to mention! My thanks to all of you for the extra time, effort and dedication you poured into the project, especially those who had a difficult time getting to and sitting through practice physically. Your continued commitment inspires and humbles me.

## FOR RENT



Brecksville United Church of Christ has been blessed with a beautiful facility, but did you know we have affordable rooms available for rent? The church's location in the center of Brecksville is ideal, complete with a side entrance and handicap access. The lower level of the Christian Education wing has been previously rented for yoga classes, music lessons and driver's education training, among other things. It is specifically zoned for church and educational ventures. A detailed map of the rentable rooms is available in the church office, but here is a brief breakdown: Room #251: 18' x 15'; Room # 252: 18' x 28'; Room #253: 18' x 32'; and Room #254: approx. 326 sq. ft. Bathrooms are easily accessible, as is a separate outdoor entrance.

If you or someone you know would like to rent one of the rooms and need more information, please talk to Pastor Dave.

## A NOTE OF THANKS

I am especially thankful during this Thanksgiving Season for you. I thank you for your prayers, flowers, food, beautiful cards, and phone calls. The many visits by Pastor Dave and members of BUCC were welcome and made me feel like a valued member of this caring congregation. Thank you. May God Bless you all. Ann Toneff

*Thank You*



The students and staff of International Newcomer's Academy @ Thomas Jefferson send a BIG thank you to BUCC members and friends for all the wonderful school supplies for our classrooms. You have all been a blessing to our school and we are very grateful!

## WOMEN UNITED

The next meeting of Women United will be Wednesday, January 20 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Our speaker will be Joy Garapic. She will be sharing with us the Wonders of Yellowstone National Park. Join us, bring a friend, and enjoy the fellowship. Bring your lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.



Heartland Hospice sends cards out to all their patients for birthdays and for Christmas. I am a volunteer with Heartland and asked for help with the Christmas angel cards we send.

At the November meeting of Women United, many hands cut out patterns of an angel I had traced on recycled Christmas cards. These angels are a many step process, and the help I received from Women United with the cutting, was very much appreciated. When all were assembled and put into envelopes, the total sent was 162. A big THANK YOU to all those who helped to put a beautiful angel card in the hands of someone in need. Janet Renovetz

## ENCORE



**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.**



### **2015** **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

*Anonymous*

*In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.*

*Julie Bernard & Linda Kriynovich*

*In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.*

*Joanne Cook*

*In Memory of my husband Skip, Sister Jeanne, and Parents, Bob & Willie Deeter.*

*Jeanne Cowden*

*In Memory of James W. Cowden.*

*Jane & Cliff Cribbs*

*In Memory of Loved Ones.*

*Marjorie Culver*

*In Memory of my Husband Richard, and Brothers-in-Law Carton Culver and Ron Lang.*

*Kim Dessooffy & Tim Wallis*

*In Memory of Lillain Meszavos.*

*Jim & Dottie Farwell*

*In Memory and Honor of our Parents.*

*Dorothy Faust*

*In Memory of Mother and Father; Clinton & Caroline Tallant.*

*Anna Mary Fisher*

*In Memory of Loved Ones.*

Joy Garapic

*In Memory of William Garapic, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather.*

Diane Gressley

*In Memory of my Parents, and Pauline Farina.*

Phyllis Hessler

*In Memory of Family & Friends who are no longer with us.*

Darlene, Michelle,  
Emily & Celia Kelly-  
Namitka

*In Celebration of Darlene Kelly & Michele Namitka, and in Recognition of the Kelly-Namitka Family.*

Mark Lehman

*In Memory of my Father Ralph Lehman (2/15/15).*

Dassie Matsuoka &  
Family

*In Memory of James Matsuoka.*

Bettina Ortiz

*In Memory of Betty, Joseph & Timothy Ortiz From Bettina Ortiz, loving daughter & sister*

*In Honor of Daniel King; Rachel, Grace, Julianne, Jenna & David Kubic; Stephanie, Steven, Lyndsey & Bradley Hough With love from Bettina Ortiz.*

Fred & Connie  
Pesek

*In Honor of Family getting together for the Holidays.*

Eric Rahnenfuehner

*In Honor of Jan & Marjorie Rahnenfuehner.*

Pat Rehm &  
Carol Miller

*In Honor of Robert Miller.*

Max Roha

*In Loving Memory David J. Roha, Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.*

Mariam R.  
Rosewicz

*In Memory of Family Members, and Loved Ones.*

Kathy Smith

*For the Joy of my Grandchildren.*

Cheryl Spieth

*In Memory of Tim Spieth and Arlene Griffith.*

Kim Stefanini &  
Michele Marcus

*In Memory of Nick & Dorothy Magold, Casmier & Sarah Mysliwczyk, Walt & Ceil Jakubowski, and Nana & Pappa Stefanini.*

Nancy Stella

*In Memory of Lucy Rose Stella, who passed away this year, Frank A. Stella, Frank S. Stella, John & Virginia Truex – Grandparents, Fathers, Husbands, and Parents.*

The Szabo Family

*In Loving Memory of Vic Szabo.*

The Kids of  
Thomas Jefferson  
School

*In Honor of Falcon Friends Wonder Volunteers.*

Bill & Ann Toneff

*In Memory of Elizabeth & C.C. Thorton, and Vera & Milan Toneff.*

The Wilson  
Family

*In Memory of Norinne & John Brownlow, and Randy Trefzger.*

Jill Zedan

*In Memory of Bobby, Joan, Jack, Preston, and Terry.*





**Did you know** that our church organ is the result of many years of the giving of time and materials by the Ellenberger family? Ernest Ellenberger was a successful business man and longtime member of our church with a strong interest in organ, choral and classical music. He helped establish an organ building business with his son, Bill. They have gradually added new components and Bill still helps keep the organ in repair and operation. The core of our organ was recovered, mostly undamaged, from the ruins of the church after the 1965 fire. It has been extensively upgraded and expanded since then.

**Did you know** that BUCC used on-street parking in front of our church building for many years? That involved perpendicular parking on the south side of Rte. 82 and parallel parking on the north side. When the highway was widened to its present width, our church began an active program to acquire properties that could provide needed off-street parking. The first such purchases were the Barton and Tesmer properties immediately behind the church leading to Arlington Street which provided the space of only about 1/3 of our present parking area. This continued to be our only parking area until the Opening Door project was completed.

## BUCC CALENDAR

### JANUARY, 2016

**Friday, Jan. 1**  
\*OFFICE CLOSED\*

**Saturday, Jan. 2**

**Sunday, Jan. 3**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, Jan. 4**

**Tuesday, Jan. 5**  
7 pm Membership

**Wednesday, Jan. 6**  
6 am Early Birds  
7 pm Council

**Thursday, Jan. 7**  
1 pm Bible Study  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7:30 pm Choir

**Friday, Jan. 8**

**Saturday, Jan. 9**  
9 am Facilities

**Sunday, Jan. 10**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee  
Hour/Potluck  
5:30 pm Youth Percussion  
6 pm Youth Ministry

**Monday, Jan. 11**

**Tuesday, Jan. 12**

10 am CWRU  
10:30 am  
Cookbook

**Wednesday, Jan. 13**

6 am Early Birds  
7 pm Council

**Thursday, Jan. 14**

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

**Friday, Jan. 15**  
PILLAR DEADLINE

**Saturday, Jan. 16**

**Sunday, Jan. 17**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, Jan. 18**

**Tuesday, Jan. 19**  
10 am CWRU  
7 pm Bicentennial  
Ministry

**Wednesday, Jan. 20**  
6 am Early Birds  
11:30 am Women United

**Thursday, Jan. 21**  
1 pm Bible Study  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7:30 pm Choir

**Friday, Jan. 22**

**Saturday, Jan. 23**

**Sunday, Jan. 24**  
10 am Worship and  
11 am Coffee Hour  
5:30 pm Youth Percussion  
6 pm Youth Ministry

**Monday, Jan. 25**

**Tuesday, Jan. 26**  
10 am CWRU

**Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
6 am Early Birds

**Thursday, Jan. 28**  
1 pm Bible Study  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7:30 pm Choir

**Friday, Jan. 29**

**Saturday, Jan. 30**

**Sunday, Jan. 31**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

## Participants in Worship

### JANUARY 3, 2015

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert  
 Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
 Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard  
 Joanne Cook, Fred Pesek  
 Michalina Fawcett  
 Garrett Demko  
 Kevin Smith  
 Chad Sproul  
 Lenore Harris  
 \*See Weekly Bulletin\*  
 Kathy Pastor  
 Jon Thompson  
 Caroline Chandler, Marge  
 Culver  
 Jan Renovetz  
 Pat Bailey  
 Beth Rehling, Kate Klonowski  
 Chad Sproul

### JANUARY 10, 2015

Lay Reader: Tia Began  
 Head Usher: Bridget Sproul  
 Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs  
 Kathy Pastor, Beth Rehling  
 Naomi Klonowski  
 Olivia Klonowski  
 Tim Wallis  
 Ann Kelley  
 Linda Kriynovich  
 \*See Weekly Bulletin\*  
 Gina Cook  
 David Pastor, Jim Duffy  
 Joanne Cook, Sue Stenzel  
 Bridget & Chad Sproul  
 Heidi Spangler, Susan Snyder  
 Jim Farwell

### JANUARY 17, 2015

Lay Reader: Evie Novak  
 Head Usher: Jon Thompson  
 Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
 Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart  
 Carli Began  
 Indira Bigelow  
 David Pastor  
 George Snider  
 Jill Zedan  
 \*See Weekly Bulletin\*  
 Marla Corrado  
 Marge Culver, Carole Snider

Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell  
 Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs  
 Snacks: Peg Duffy, Diane Gressley  
 Snow Herder: Joe Wilson

### JANUARY 24, 2015

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson  
 Head Usher: Anne Melfo  
 Ushers: Jim Duffy, Sam Koch  
 Diane Gressley, Tina Ortiz  
 Ben Rehling  
 Drew Demko  
 Max Roha  
 Jill Zedan  
 Jon Thompson  
 \*See Weekly Bulletin\*  
 Jon Cook  
 David Pastor, Caroline  
 Chandler  
 Chad Sproul, Julie Bernard  
 Kathy & David Pastor  
 Anne Melfo, Tina Ortiz  
 Wes Novak

### JANUARY 31, 2015

Lay Reader: Sam Koch  
 Head Usher: Jan Renovetz  
 Ushers: Darlene Kelly, David Ritchey  
 Sue Stenzel, Vicki Szabo  
 Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
 Peace Candle: Garrett Demko  
 Sound: Doug Fawcett  
 Comns Grtr: Joanne Cook  
 Narthex Grtr: Kathy Pastor  
 Flowers: \*See Weekly Bulletin\*  
 Nursery: Courtney Began  
 Counters: David Pastor, Jon Thompson  
 Servers: Carole Snider, Jill Zedan  
 Clean Up: Peg & Jim Duffy  
 Snacks: Vicki Szabo, Jon Thompson  
 Snow Herder: Doug Fawcett

*(Continued Next Column)*

# *The Pillar*

is published monthly by the

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