

The *Pillar*
Brecksville United Church of Christ

October, 2016



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on The Table Blessing...

“Come Lord Jesus be our guest, let this food to us be blessed.”

That simple table blessing [or “grace”] conveys a profound truth. Whenever God’s children invite Jesus to be present among them, everything around them takes-on a special blessing. Whether it be the food we share, the stories we tell, the way we interact - when you and I consciously acknowledge Christ’s Presence, it changes the manner in which we relate to one another and to our surroundings. When I intentionally invite Jesus to be an unseen guest in my car, I tend to be a more courteous driver. When I remember to mentally acknowledge Christ’s Presence in the midst of a heated argument, I’m inclined to keep a cooler head. Verbally [or even silently] asking Jesus to bless any family meal or social gathering I attend, tends to put me in a more gracious state of mind and spirit. [Maybe that’s why it’s called “saying grace”!]

For 200 years, some version our BUCC Family of Faith has gathered at the Communion Table to celebrate Christ’s Gracious Presence. And like the varied theological interpretations of different Christian denominations, our members throughout the years have certainly had differing understandings as to how Christ’s Presence is represented in the Bread and Cup that we share. Fortunately, our members have also had a healthy respect for those - and other - differences. We recognize that the blessings which freely flow from that Table of Grace are far too abundant and remarkable for any singular interpretation to define or contain. Together we simply and joyfully follow Christ’s admonition to “take and eat” in remembrance and celebration of his life and love.

On the 16th of this month, many of us will gather around the table for another kind of remembrance and celebration. BUCC members and friends from the past and the present, from near and far, will congregate at Hale Farm to mark our Congregation’s Bicentennial Year. This promises to be a wonderful evening of great food, stimulating conversations, plus some musical [and some amusing] treats! Rev. Dr. Rita Root, the Western Reserve and Eastern Ohio Associations’ General Minister will inspire us with some words about the Church’s

past, present, and future. And we will no doubt experience a sense of that past, present and future as we break bread with our longtime members and our energetic children and youth.

We have invited some special guests from our church and our community to join us at this festive gathering. And as always, we will also extend one more special invitation that evening:

“Come Lord Jesus be our guest, let this food to us be blessed!”

Sharing the Blessings with you,
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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 9TH TO DETERMINE PLAN FOR THE RENTAL HOUSE.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

We will have a congregational meeting on October 9th to plan the future course for the rental property at 7041 Arlington Street. One tenant recently moved out, and Council believes this is the proper time to decide if we should continue to rent out the house or have it demolished to make other use of the property. Members will be given opportunities to view the vacant unit before the October 9th vote.

More information will follow in a mailing to each member.

FACILITIES



Fall Church Property Clean Up has been set for Saturday, November 5 starting at 9:00 a.m. Please plan to give some of your time that morning, put it on your calendar now, and watch for more details.

NEWS FROM OCWM

The aluminum can recycle and redeem efforts by BUCC members and friends continue. The magic barrel in the lower commons manages to fill up. Thanks to those mentioned above.

Amazingly, since its inception, over 2330 pounds of cans, representing over \$1900.00, have been redeemed. Thanks go to those who have faithfully continued filling the barrel.



The donation of food and other items by BUCC members and friends continues unabated. The basket by the church office door collects items weekly, the items are transferred to the closet by the ramp door, the items are temporarily stored until they are knee high, and then they are delivered by van to either Brookside Hunger Center or to Community Corner Hunger Center. Thanks go to those who help meet the needs of so many people.

The next hunger meal is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd at Bethany UCC. The sign-up board is in the narthex, showing the menu and the times of the two shifts. Meals for about 50 or 60 people are anticipated.

NOTES AND ASIDES



Bicentennial Celebration

OCTOBER 16, 6 PM

At Hale Farm & Village

OUR BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK
"200 YEARS OF SERVING"

BOOK DISCUSSION



At the next book discussion the group will be discussing Elizabeth Gilbert's novel **THE SIGNATURE OF ALL THINGS**. The group meets in the parlor at 1:00 pm. and October's Meeting is on Monday, Oct. 3rd.



FOOD PANTRY

OCTOBER - Canned Soup, Baked Beans, Chili, etc.

“CHRISTMAS WILL BE HERE SOON”

The Advent tree (formerly called a Christmas tree) is a big part of our Advent/Christmas celebration here at BUCC. It is so-o-o tall, sits in the right front corner of the sanctuary and looks spectacular covered in lights. Our children hang chrismons on it during the children's sermon on the first Sunday in Advent. It seems to appear magically BUT there is some prep work that needs to be done beforehand.

An hour +/- of labor to bring the tree and accessories down from the attic and set it all up on the Saturday before Advent is the first job. The second job is another hour +/- the week after Christmas to take the tree and decorations down, pack them and return to attic. So it only takes about 4 hours of your time during the holiday season to handle the job along with recruited volunteers.



Over the years this job has been passed down to younger and more able members of our congregation and it is time again to pass the "torch". It won't seem like Christmas without the tree, the wreaths and other decorations, so we are asking for volunteers to take over the job of decorating our church for the holidays. Please give this some thought and submit your name(s) to Caroline Chandler or Jan Renovetz."

HELP SHELTER DOGS & CATS, AND SMALL ANIMALS

If you are looking for somewhere to donate new or gently used comforters, blankets, bed spreads, and towels, please consider bringing them to Jeannette at the Church Office.



I take them to the local (some not so local) animals shelters to provide comfort to the animals. I cannot save them all, but I want them to be cozy while they're at the shelter!

This is ongoing; the shelters are always in need of these items. **Thank You!** Jeannette, BUCC Office

THE MITTEN TREE IS RETURNING



It's time to get out your knitting needles or to use your sharp eyes for good buys on mittens, hats, scarves, etc. The cold weather will be coming soon and it will be time to decorate the mitten tree that will be appearing in the Narthex.

MUSIC



SEASONAL CHOIR This year's Christmas Cantata will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 11 at our morning service. Additional singers are invited to fill out the choir for this special holiday presentation.

We will begin rehearsing for the Cantata on Thurs. Oct. 6 from 7-8 pm; hour-long practices continue on Thursdays through Dec. 11.

(continued)

If you enjoy singing music in a group setting but don't have the time to commit to the regular choir, seasonal choir provides a wonderful opportunity for music, fellowship and spiritual preparation for the Christmas Season. High School students are welcome to participate.

CASE JAZZ ENSAEMBLE On Sunday October 30 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the Case Jazz Ensemble. Under the direction of Paul Ferguson, the ensemble will present a Jazz Vespers program featuring original works by Mr. Ferguson along with several of his arrangements of traditional hymn tunes. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Please call 440-526-4364 for further information.

OUR BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK “200 YEARS OF SERVING”



Many of the bicentennial cookbooks have been sold. Thanks very much for your support. We are putting some in the church office for people to purchase during the week and on Sundays any one of the cookbook committee can get you as many cookbooks as you would like to purchase. They are also available for purchase on the website www.Cookbookshoppe.com!



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

October 8:	Michelle Namitka
October 9:	Ashley Smith
October 15:	Indiria Bigelow
October 16:	Heather Hunt
October 21:	Joy Garapic
October 22:	Johnny Kolar
October 24:	Betsey Wilson
	Doris Schmid
October 25:	Jim Farwell
October 26:	Diane Lightbody
	Leroy Ford
October 30:	Jesse Wade

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

BUCC CALENDAR

OCTOBER, 2016

Saturday, OCT. 1

Sunday, OCT. 2

10 am Worship/NIN
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Open House/Arlington
2-6 pm Hunger Meal
Bethany

Monday, OCT. 3

1pm Book Discussion
7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, OCT. 4

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, OCT. 5

6 am Early Birds
NO Recorder/Dul.
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, OCT. 6

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

Friday, OCT. 7

Saturday, OCT. 8

Sunday, OCT. 9
10 am Worship
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

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

Monday, OCT. 10

7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, OCT. 11

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, OCT. 12

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.
7 pm Council

Thursday, OCT. 13

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

Friday, OCT. 14

Saturday, OCT. 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, OCT. 16

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
6 pm Bicentennial Banquet
Hale Farm

Monday, OCT. 17

Tuesday, OCT. 18

Wednesday, OCT. 19
6 am Early Birds
11:30am Women United
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.

Thursday, OCT. 20

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

Friday, OCT. 21

Saturday, OCT. 22

Sunday, OCT. 23

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Paris Relations/
LDR Dev. – Par.

Monday, OCT. 24

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Tuesday, OCT. 25

Wednesday, OCT. 26
6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.

Thursday, OCT. 27

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

Friday, OCT. 28

Saturday, OCT. 29

Sunday, OCT. 30
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
4 pm Jazz Vespers/
Case Jazz
Ensemble

Monday, Oct. 31
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

OCT. 2, 2016

Lay Reader: Tia Began
 Head Usher: Jill Zedan
 Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
 Diane Gressley, Cliff Cribbs
 Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
 Peace Candle: Lucy Brown
 Sound: Max Roha
 Comns Grtr: Dorie Gabor
 Narthex Grtr: Joanne Cook
 Flowers: Dorie Gabor
 Nursery: Gina Cook
 Counters: Nancy Stella, Jon Thompson
 Servers: Carole & George Snider
 Clean Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
 Snacks: Susan Snyder, Max Roha

OCT. 9, 2016

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
 Head Usher: Bob Chandler
 Ushers: Tim & Kim Wallis
 Acolyte: Kathy Pastor, Fred Pesek
 Peace Candle: Naomi Klonowski
 Sound: Drew Demko
 Comns Grtr: David Pastor
 Narthex Grtr: Ann Kelley
 Flowers: Lenore Harris
 Nursery: Dot Bailey
 Counters: Valerie Tyler
 Servers: Marge Culver, Donn Whyte
 Clean-Up: Joy Garapic, Betty Kaul
 Snacks: Anne Melfo & Doug Fawcett
 Betsey Wilson, Anne Demko

OCT. 16, 2016

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
 Head Usher: Anne Melfo
 Ushers: Vicki Szabo, Dan Stewart
 Acolyte: Wes Novak, Lindsey Maier
 Peace Candle: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
 Sound: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
 Comns Grtr: Mike Westerberg
 Narthex Grtr: Chad Sproul
 Flowers: Max Roha
 Dottie Faust

(Continued next column)

Nursery:

Courtni Began
 David Pastor, Bruce McCain
 Marge Culver, Julie Bernard
 Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
 Sue Maier, Jon Thompson

OCT. 23, 2016

Lay Reader: Evie Novak
 Head Usher: Jon Thompson
 Ushers: George & Carole Snider
 Joanne Cook, Ed Lusk
 Acolyte: Carli Began
 Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
 Sound: Tim Wallis
 Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
 Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
 Flowers: Julie Bernard
 Nursery: Jon Cook
 Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jan Renovetz
 Servers: Darlene Kelly, Michele
 Namitka
 Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
 Snacks: Diane Gressley, Marge
 Culver

OCT. 30, 2016

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
 Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
 Ushers: Linda Kriyovich, Matt
 Wolbert, Bob &
 Caroline Chandler
 Flowers: Jillian Davis
 Nursery: Garrett Demko
 Counters: Doug Fawcett
 Servers: Jane Cribbs
 Clean Up: Betty Kaul
 Snacks: Jan Renovetz
 Acolyte: Kathy Pastor
 Peace Candle: Jim Duffy, Marge Culver
 Sound: Dottie & Jim Farwell
 Comns Grtr: Bridget & Chad Sproul
 Narthex Grtr: Gina Cook, Peg Duffy
 Flowers: Stewart

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
prior to publication. Editor
reserves the right to edit for
content and space.
Financial Secretary: Joy Garapic
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Pillar Editor: Jeannette Kroeger
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