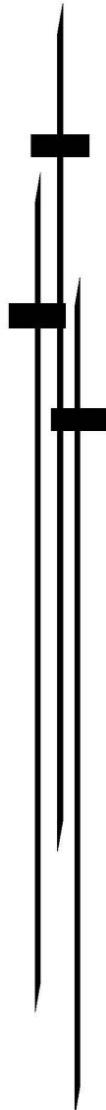


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

JULY, 2017



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on Problems, Prayer and Perspective...

A couple weeks ago, as I was waiting in line at our local Marc's, the person in front of me was having a difficult time completing his transaction. It seemed like a simple matter having to do with some coupons or pricing; yet somehow it became a really big deal. As I listened to the man vent his over-the-top frustration at the young cashier, I thought about those times when I myself have turned a minor inconvenience into a major incident. Usually I try to hold my irrational irritation inside; but sometimes I, too, burst-forth like an out-of-control fool. As an outside observer of that day's Marc's Madness, I used my extra time in line reflecting on two simple, yet effective tools I find helpful in warding-off that kind of ridiculous reaction when it wells-up in me.

The first is *Prayer*. More specifically, remembering the first line of the so-named *Serenity Prayer*: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change...." This short prayer, which is widely used by A.A. and other 12-Step programs, was written by Reinhold Niebuhr, a renown theologian of the Evangelical and Reformed Church [later, the United Church of Christ]. It offers a simple, yet profound reminder that so many of Life's little irritations - and big problems - are things that are simply out of our control to change. Remembering this, can help us circumvent a lot of futile foolishness, as well as give us more time and energy to focus on the prayer's second and third parts "...Courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Of course, remembering to pray and remain calm when my irrational ire wells up, is basically the core of the problem! This is where this second tool is becoming increasingly useful for me: *Perspective*. Lately, I've been thinking about many of the issues and concerns that seem to be ripping-apart the fabric of our civil society.

It strikes me that many of the “problems” that can bedevil me and many around me, are really quite pathetic when measured against the true problems that most people in this world face. While we get ticked-off because our grocery trip hits a little bump, there are *millions* who would gladly trade places with us. An hour traffic tie-up in an air-conditioned car would be a delightful treat to someone who walks that long to acquire food or water just to survive on a daily basis.

Prayer and Perspective can be effective tools for those of us whose privileged lives tend to dull our senses and sensibility. Keeping those tool sharp and readily available requires regular maintenance and use!

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

FACILITIES

Facilities Ministry Report – 6/5/2017

The exterior lock on the new furnace room door has been re-keyed to accept the exterior master key. The HVAC floor grate in the office has been replaced.

The stained glass restoration is progressing. The restorer is trying to locate two particular colors to complete the work.►



The interior exit signs have been updated and the drinking fountain in Pilgrim Hall is being repaired with parts from the fountain by the Music Office.

The Facilities Ministry is considering a number of options in an attempt to resolve the flooding of the lower level of the church. The exterior drains have been flushed and camera inspected. As a result of the inspection the parking lot drain receiving basin will need to be rebuilt. Additionally, the driveway entrance from Route 82 may need to be lowered to reduce the risk of flooding at the west entrance to the educational wing. The drain at the north entrance of the educational wing is too small to accommodate a deluge and solutions are being discussed.

Bids will be sought to clean all vegetation on the slope that runs from the rental property to the shed next to the school. After vegetation is cleared crown vetch would be planted. This would enhance the aesthetics of the area and make fall and spring cleanup simpler. Cost of the project will determine the feasibility.

Arlington property – gutter extensions will be added to direct water away from the foundation. In addition the wood trim on the garage will be clad in aluminum and the vinyl siding will be repaired. This will reduce maintenance. A repair to the aluminum cladding on the front of the church will be included.

PARISH-STAFF RELATIONS/PERSONNEL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



SPRC and Leadership Development will be sponsoring a second Listening Session on Sunday, July 23 after church. Grab a coffee and join us in the Parlor for an information session on Christian Education. Heidi Spangler and other members of the ministry will be available for questions and answers.

Parents with children in Sunday school or approaching that time are encouraged to attend this session. ►

This can be a perfect opportunity to learn what CE is all about and perhaps find an opportunity to add your talents to this vital ministry.

We will provide child care during the session.

BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Annual Picnic Is Coming Up On July 9
9256 Highland Drive Brecksville
2-6

Please bring a dish to share as we will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. This year our dessert contest for adults will be a dessert



made with fruit. The children can participate in a cookie contest - 15 years old and under. Plan on a fun day with swimming, fishing, card games and more.

If you have questions call Kathy Smith 440 343 6354. Don't miss this great event and get your name on the sign-up sheet. If you are not able to attend church or cannot locate the sign-up sheet – please notify the church office and tell them you want to attend.

NOTES AND ASIDES

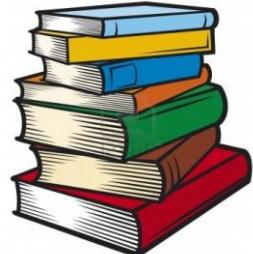
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



"Congratulations to all our graduates, at all levels.
"Live each day as if your life has just begun. Enjoy the journey!"

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

At the July 10th meeting, the book being discussed is CARRY ON by Lisa Fenn. The group meets in the parlor at 1:00. This non-fiction choice is set in Cleveland, OH, and focuses on two Lincoln West H.S. wrestlers. The one lost both legs in a childhood train accident and is often seen riding on the back of the other who is legally blind and basically homeless. The book is a real life story of people who forged thru barriers of race, class, and disability to form a family and carry on. Any questions, call Dot Bailey 440-526-4881.



FOOD PANTRY



July Toothpaste, Shampoo, and Toilet Paper

TEA TIME FOR PEACE: An Interfaith Dialogue

Concerned about fear of and hate and violence toward members of faith traditions different from your own? "Be the change" you want to see in the world!

Meet your Muslim neighbors and other members of the interfaith community. Join us as we learn about, share and celebrate the rich diversity of our different cultural and faith traditions with tea and treats!



Wednesday, July 12, 2017
7:00 - 9:00 PM (registration from 6:30 - 7:00 PM)

St. Malachi Parish Hall
2459 Washington Avenue
(Corner W. 25th & Detroit)
Cleveland, OH 44113

Please RSVP by July 10, 2017 to
Stephanie Riccobene
riccobene726@gmail.com
or 216-799-6015



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 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
	Nora Smith-Gagliano
July 22:	Mira Corrado
July 25:	Cindy Burton
July 26:	Carol VanDuyne
July 27:	Anne Melfo
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!

DO YOU KNOW



That there is a container with amazing qualities at BUCC? It can be found in the lower commons and is in the shape of a barrel. It is labeled “aluminum cans”. Periodically it is emptied of its entire contents, and magically it becomes full of aluminum cans again, seemingly when no one is looking. The magic comes when the cans are redeemed and the monies

are transformed into funds for shipping medical items, childrens vitamins, and the like to the Ukraine and other SARA locations. Thank you to all the magicians who have been filling this amazing container.



Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation,
welcoming all of God's children.

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or
partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,
You Are Welcome Here!

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist,
Roman Catholic, agnostic, or a life-long member of the
UCC,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual,
You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with
differing abilities,
You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's
journey,

We welcome one another to this place, even as God
welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!

BUCC CALENDAR

JULY, 2017

Saturday, JULY 1	Wednesday, JULY 12	Thursday, JULY 27
	6 am Early Birds	1 pm Bible Study
Sunday, JULY 2	7:00 PM *NO COUNCIL	Friday, JULY 28
10 am Worship	MTG. IN JULY	*OFFICE CLOSED*
11 am Coffee Hour		
Monday, JULY 3	Thursday, JULY 13	Saturday, July 29
*NO Facilities Meeting in	1 pm Bible Study	
July*		
Tuesday, JULY 4	Friday, JULY 14	Sunday, July 30
OFFICE CLOSED	*OFFICE CLOSED*	10 am Worship
		11 am Coffee Hour
Wednesday, JULY 5	Saturday, JULY 15	Monday, July 31
6 am Early Birds	PILLAR DEADLINE	
Recorder/Dulcimer-		
*OFF FOR		
SUMMER*		
Thursday, JULY 6	Sunday, JULY 16	*THE OFFICE WILL
1 pm Bible Study	10 am Worship	BE CLOSED ON
*CHOIRS OFF FOR	11 am Coffee Hour	FRIDAYS THROUGH
SUMMER*		LABOR DAY.*
Friday, JULY 7	Monday, JULY 17	
OFFICE CLOSED		
Saturday, JULY 8	Tuesday, JULY 18	
Sunday, JULY 9	Wednesday, JULY 19	
10 am Worship	6 am Early Birds	
11 am Coffee Hour		
2 pm Church Picnic		
Monday, JULY 10	Thursday, JULY 20	
1:00 pm Book Discussion	1 pm Bible Study	
7 pm Spiritual Life		
Tuesday, JULY 11	Friday, JULY 21	
	OFFICE CLOSED	
7 pm Spiritual Life		
	Saturday, JULY 22	
Sunday, JULY 23	Sunday, JULY 23	
	10 am Worship	
	11 am Coffee Hour	
	11am CE Survey Response	
	Session	
Tuesday, JULY 24		
Wednesday, JULY 25		
Thursday, JULY 26		
	6 am Early Birds	

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JULY 2, 2017

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Ed Lusk, Lindsey Maier
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Stu Bailey, Nancy Stella
Servers: Joanne Cook, Betty Kaul
Clean Up: Lynne Struck, Sue Stenzel

JULY 9, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: David Ritchey, Jess Barnes
Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Ben Davis
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Sue Stenzel, Jim Duffy
Servers: Joy Garapic, Marge Culver
Clean-Up: Anne Melfo & Doug Fawcett

JULY 16, 2017

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Linda Kriynovich, Kate
Klonowski, Bridget & Chad
Sproul
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Dorie Gabor

(Continued next column)*

Nursery:

Kathy Pastor
Marge Culver, Dave Bernard
Caroline Chandler, Juile
Bernard
Jane & Cliff Cribbs

Counters:**Servers:****Clean-Up:****JULY 23, 2017**

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson
Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy

JULY 30, 2017

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Matt Wolbert, Jim Pay
Jim Duffy, Diane Gressley
Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte: Drew Demko
Peace Candle: Kevin Smith
Sound: Linda Kriynovich
Comns Grtr: Dottie Faust
Flowers: Kate Klonowski
Nursery: Bruce McCain, Donn Whyte
Counters: Darlene Kelly, Michele
Servers: Namitka
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS