

The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

DECEMBER, 2017



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on the Real Savior of Christmas...

“We’re getting near that beautiful Christmas season that people don’t talk about anymore. You go to department stores and they’ll say ‘Happy New Year, but they don’t use the word Christmas because it’s not politically correct....Well, guess what? We’re saying ‘Merry Christmas’ again.” - Donald Trump at the *Values Voter Summit*, Oct.13, 2017.

Three weeks before the spooky Halloween stuff was off the shelves, our nation’s president took time from his busy schedule to scare-up the latest episode of the “The War on Christmas”. Strangely enough, this so-call ‘war’ isn’t about combating the crass commercialism that surrounds the celebration of Jesus’ birth. Retailers really don’t care what you or I do on December 25th, as long as we spend big bucks between Halloween and Christmas Eve. And whether you or I get a “Merry Christmas” at Macy’s or a “Happy Holiday” at Home Depot, makes absolutely no difference in how you or I or any other Christian chooses to commemorate Christ’s birth.

If we’re really concerned about “Saving Christmas” we should contemplate and copy the life and teachings of Christ the Savior. The One whose birth announcement proclaims “peace on earth, goodwill to all.”

The One whose humble beginnings and simple lifestyle challenge the rampant materialism and selfish amassing of money that is becoming increasingly popular today.

The One who values compassionate relationships above religious rhetoric.

The One who willingly sets-aside his power and gives-up his life in order to stand with the poor and powerless.

The One whose life is restored through the power of Divine Love, and continues to reside in and through you and me.

So perhaps rather than insisting that those around us wish us a “Merry Christmas”, you and I can focus on sharing the Light and Love of Christ with everyone we meet. After all, that’s what Christmas is really all about! Peace & Joy! 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.

LET'S GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

On Sunday, December 17th at 2:00 pm, our youth, children, and adults will meet at the church to go caroling to our homebound members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special Christmas greeting to those members who cannot regularly join us for worship. We will return to the church around 4:00 to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies!

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

MEMBERSHIP

SAVE THE DATE



The BUCC annual bowling outing will take place on Sunday January 21, 2018 at Northwoods Lanes in Macedonia at 2 pm. The cost is \$5 for 2 games including shoe rental, snacks and prizes. Any questions contact David Pastor.

NEWS FROM OCWM

At the Christmas Eve service, the Christmas Fund (formerly known as Veterans of the Cross) will be received. This offering helps meet the needs of retired and low-income clergy and lay employees of the UCC. The fund works throughout the year, not just during the Christmas season. Dollars given to the Christmas Fund go directly to those who have served or who presently serve the church, especially in moments of critical need. ►

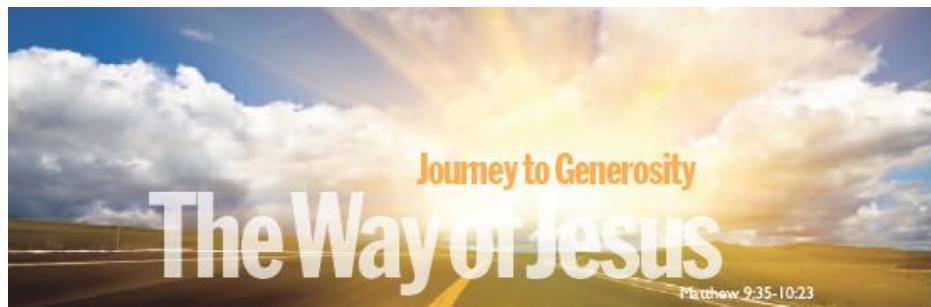


Also included are health premium supplementation and prescription medication coverage. Please be generous, as these funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these “veterans of the cross”.

The next hunger meal will be served on January 7, 2018 at Bethany UCC. The menu has not been determined. The sign-up board will appear in the narthex, for those persons interested in helping to indicate their choice of shift to help. The first shift will be from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM, and the second shift will be from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Also some cookie bakers would be appreciated.

Lastly, a huge “thank you” goes to those BUCC members and friends who have donated food and other items to be delivered to the hunger centers. The value goes beyond the items themselves. This is another example of BUCC members and friends taking to heart the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:35... (“for I was hungry and you gave me food...”).

STEWARDSHIP



The ABCs of BUCC Stewardship

By Diane Gressley

Good morning, I have been a lifelong member of the United Church of Christ and spent many Sundays of my life in one church or another. But for the last 12 years, BUCC has been my home church. As I was growing up in Eastern Pennsylvania, in the middle of a Pennsylvania Dutch community, the expectations for education and learning were not nearly as highlighted as our ability to work the land and be experts in farming, animals, and agriculture. ►

But looking back on all my schooling and how I came to Jesus and God, I probably learned everything I needed to know in my Sunday School Kindergarten class. So let's take a stroll back to those days when I first learned my ABC's and perhaps update of my learning to align with some stewardship insights here at Brecksville United Church of Christ.

A - Awesome

B - Brecksville, where for us, it all begins

C - Church, is a building and also a group of people, both of which need some updates and lots of TLC

D – David, and yes God had King David, but we have lots of Davids, although I don't really think any of them are kings or wrote psalms, but nonetheless, they are all very important to us

E – Excitement for all the wonderful things we accomplish here at BUCC

F – Family, this is our home away from home family

G – God; **his** presence and **her** love lifts us up

H – Holy Spirit and the healing powers

I – Individuals; we are all awesome individuals but remember that “I” is an important letter in **UNITED**

J – Jesus; the ultimate steward, friend, and brother

K – Knowledge

L – Love is in the middle of the alphabet just like our love for each other is in the middle of this congregation

M – Mission – whether hunger meals or contributions to recent or distant disasters we really do respond quite well

N – No wrong way; or what I fondly call the “Chandler chant”

O – Open and Affirming for those that have it; it is an empowering foundation, but for those that do NOT “get it”, I do believe it is a sad day in heaven.

P – Pass the peace

Q – Quality – time spent here at BUCC is always quite meaningful

R – Rejoice; for our music and celebration that at BUCC we do exceptionally well

S – Stewardship caring for earth and church and each other

T – Truth; we come inside searching for the truth as we know it is often a difficult thing to find outside these doors.

U – United Church of Christ, don't forget the “United” as not to be confused with the Church of Christ►

V – Voices raised in praise!

W – Welcome

X- Xtravagant; ok, yes, I realize that does not begin with “x”, but it really did pass my spell checker so I know it is totally welcome in my ABC’s.

Y – Yes, you, yes, you are valued!

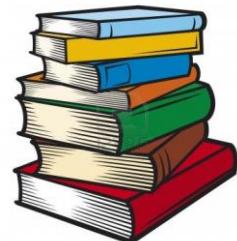
Z- Zealous in our passion for this church and each other

So now that you learned my ABC’s, let’s move onto 123, and yes, carefully consider what this church does mean to you. So whether the monetary 123’s that you contribute be large or small, know that it is all appreciated. Thank you.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Jodi Picoult's **SMALL GREAT THINGS** is the book for discussion Dec. 4 @ 1:00 in the church parlor. Carole Snider will be leading the group in reacting to this well documented novel about racism and white privilege. All are welcome to participate.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2017 Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant will be on December 17th. We have parts

available for all children who are interested in participating. We realize that it's a busy time of year and the children don't need to attend all rehearsals to participate. But we do need to know that they will be there on the 17th and that they can attend most of the rehearsals so they know their lines etc. Most rehearsals will take place during Sunday school but

we'll also be rehearsing songs on Thursday evenings at Joyful Noise practice and we have scheduled a final dress rehearsal on ►



Saturday, December 16th. The rehearsal schedule is outlined below. Please email Heidi Spangler (heidih610@aol.com) or Anne Melfo (fawfo@hotmail.com) if you have any questions. Thank you!

11/26 - Sunday School Rehearsal
11/30 - Music Rehearsal - Joyful Noise - 5:30 pm
12/3 - Sunday School Rehearsal
12/7 - Music Rehearsal - Joyful Noise - 5:30 pm
12/10 - Cantata - Rehearsal after Church 12:00 - 1:00
12/14 - Music Rehearsal - Joyful Noise - 5:30 pm
12/16 - Final Pageant Rehearsal - 10:00 - 2:00 (lunch provided)
12/17 - Pageant

WOMEN UNITED

WOMEN UNITED There will be no set meetings for November and December, however, on Tuesday December 5th at 7:00PM Christ The Redeemer Lutheran Church will be presenting their Annual Advent Tea. Several of our women have attended this service in the last few years and found it truly meaningful and welcoming. If you would like to attend this year please meet in the lobby of CRLC and we will sit together. After an eventful service Tea and TRAYS of cookies are served in the Community Room. We highly recommend this opportunity to begin the Advent Season! Please Come!



FOOD PANTRY

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

MUSIC

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - On Sunday, December 10 at our regular 10 AM service, the adult choir will present, "Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts," this year's Christmas musical. Created by Nancy Gordon, the dynamic score features music by a number of composers and arrangers, including Dennis and Nan Allen, Tom Fettke, Stan Pethel, Gary Rhodes, Robert Brown, John Chisum, George Searcy, David Winkler, Steven Curtis Chapman, Michael W. Smith, and Nancy Gordon. The presentation will include flutes, trumpets, violin and assorted percussion. Plan on joining us on December 10 to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!



ARTS RENAISSANCE TREMONT

7 pm, Thursday, Dec. 14
Burning River Brass B

7pm, Friday, Dec.15
Burning River Brass

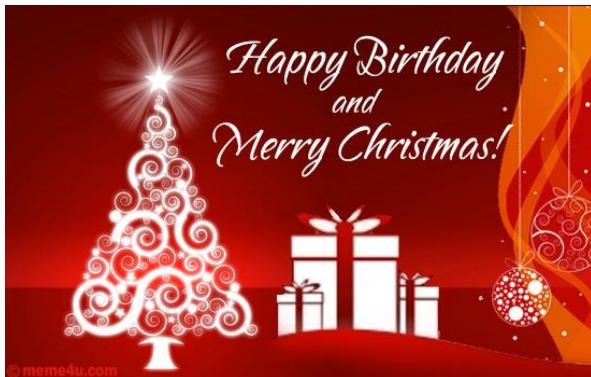
3pm, Sunday Feb. 18 –
ALL BEETHOVEN
Amici String Quartet
Members of The Cleveland
2pm concert preview with
Donald Rosenberg –
Sponsored anonymously

3pm, Sunday, March 18
ACH Birthday Tribute: Mark
Kosower, *cello*

3pm, Sunday, April 15
Jaime Laredo, *violin*

3pm, Sunday May, 6
Cicilia Yudha, *piano*

PRESENTED AT PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2592 WEST 14TH ST.
CLEVELAND, OH 44113



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

December 4:	Jon Thompson
	Doug Fawcett
December 6:	Kevin Smith
	Jacob VanDuyne
December 12:	Betty Einhart
December 13:	Grace Hunt
	Michael VanDuyne
December 17:	Shannon West
December 19:	David Durkit
December 20:	Genny Costanzo
	Naomi Klonowski
	Jim Duffy
	Jill Black
December 21:	Bob Chandler
	Lauren Haynes
December 25:	Linda Kriynovich
	Jesus
December 28:	Dan Stewart
	Valerie Duffy
December 29:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg

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



Find Your Groove!

www.creativedrumming.com

Presents



Jingle Jam

A Family Holiday
Music Celebration



*Discover the joy of rhythm in singing
dancing and drumming together!*

Sunday, December 3rd

3:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE EVENT! INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED!

Brecksville United Church of Christ
23 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141

Located at the intersection of Rt. 82 and Rt. 21.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH POINSETTIAS IN OUR SANCTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Christmas with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



I Enclose \$12.00 _____ or other _____ for Poinsettias

In Memory _____ or Honor _____ or _____

Of _____

Your Name

I WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS _____

****PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP YOUR POINSETTIA OR LEAVE IT HERE FOR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS****

WILL KEEP _____
WILL NOT KEEP _____

DID YOU KNOW?

BUCC TRIVIA

Did you know that our church bell was recovered from the basement where it had fallen during the tragic 1965 fire that destroyed our sanctuary? In the old church it had been rung before worship by the deacons using a rope in the narthex. It is now rung electrically by the organist. This bell and the one in the Methodist church were tuned to each other so that when they were rung at the same time before worships on Sunday morning, the sounds would be pleasant.

Did you know that the Brecksville Congregational Church (our former name) sold a small piece of land at the northwest corner of its property to the Coates general store for their expansion which included the first Packard hardware store? When the Coates store was eliminated when the westbound Route 82 was changed in 1937 to follow along a widened Highland Drive instead of Stadium drive, we reacquired the exact same piece. By then it was 7 feet wider, reflecting a correction for a surveying error made in the original deed.

Did you know that our church property is the consolidation of eight separate piece of land acquired over many years?

- * the original purchase (1844 - 8 x 10 rods, \$150.00),
- * an addition on the east side of the original purchase to give more space (1844 - 1 x 10 rods, \$ 25.00),
- * the reacquisition (1962) of a small piece at our Rte. 82 drive that had been sold earlier to Coates general store,
- * two parcels with houses immediately behind our church - Barton (1968) and Dixon (1994),
- * two parcels with houses on Arlington Street (Tesmer- 1959 and Elsworth - 1989)
- * and a small triangle acquired from True North Shell (2002) to allow widening of our entrance drive from Arlington Street.

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 long time 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 at one time a large gully ran immediately behind our church building, draining land all the way up Highland Drive to beyond Elm Street? Over time, it was tiled, covered and mostly abandoned. The main remnant of this drainage system is an existing 30 inch drain from in front of East of Chicago Pizza. This drains much of the Center and runs diagonally under Brecksville Road to discharge behind the shopping center. The original gully and its contributors have given BUCC water problems in our parking lot and elevator shaft, requiring added drainage and a pumping system.

Did you know that BUCC does not own all of the land under its parking lot? The City of Brecksville owns a 50x250 piece adjacent to the school. This is the subject to a long term three-way agreement between our church, the city and the school that gives BUCC use of the City land during non-school hours and the school, plus another equally sized BUCC area, during school hours. This agreement is not part of our rental arrangement with the Central School and will continue in effect after they vacate our education wing.

Did you know that the original church building was built without a basement? When a basement was added in the early 1900's to provide Sunday school space, it was necessary to install an extensive series of pipe-pillars to support all of the existing load points. These provided places for hanging curtains to make classrooms but also a maze of obstacles used by the students as a play area. It is said that our newsletter's name is a remnant of these pillars of our old church building.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER, 2017

Friday, December 1 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Monday, DECEMBER 11	Sunday, DECEMBER 24 10 am Worship –Xmas Offering 11 am Coffee Hour 10 pm Candlelight / Communion
Saturday, DECEMBER 2	Tuesday, DECEMBER 12	Monday, DECEMBER 25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Sunday, DECEMBER 3 10 am Worship/ 11 am Congregational Mtg. *Pageant Sunday School Rehearsal* Coffee Hour 3pm Jingle Jam/PH 5:15pm Percussion Cantata Practice	Wednesday, DECEMBER 13 6 am Early Birds 7:00 PM Council	Tuesday, DECEMBER 26
	Thursday, DECEMBER 14 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Joyful Noise/ *Pageant Music Rehearsal	Wednesday, DECEMBER 27 6 am Early Birds
Monday, DECEMBER 4 1 pm Book Discussion 7 pm Facilities	Friday, DECEMBER 15 PILLAR DEADLINE *OFFICE CLOSED*	Thursday, DECEMBER 28 1 pm Bible Study
Tuesday, DECEMBER 5	Saturday, DECEMBER 16 10am – 2 pm Final Pageant Rehearsal – Lunch Provided	Friday, DECEMBER 29 <i>*Office Closed*</i>
Wednesday, DECEMBER 6 6 am Early Birds	Sunday, DECEMBER 17 10 am Worship/Pageant 11 am Coffee Hour 2-4pm Caroling	Saturday, DECEMBER 30
Thursday, DECEMBER 7 1 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm Joyful Noise/ *Pageant Music Rehearsal 7-10 pm Cantata practice	Monday, DECEMBER 18	Sunday, December 31 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour
Friday, DECEMBER 8 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tuesday, DECEMBER, 19	
Saturday, DECEMBER 9 10-11:30 Cantata Practice 12 pm Cantata – Chippewa Place	Wednesday, DECEMBER 20 6 am Early Birds	*THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.*
Sunday, DECEMBER 10 10 am Worship/Cantata 11 am Coffee Hour 12 pm Pageant Rehearsal	Thursday, DECEMBER 21 1 pm Bible Study	
	Friday, DECEMBER 22 *OFFICE CLOSED*	
	Saturday, DECEMBER 23	

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3, 2017

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Kathy Smith, Matt Wolbert
Tim & Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer Westerberg
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Jonathon Cook
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Nancy Stella
Servers: Betty Kaul, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks: Jim Pay, Susan Snyder

DECEMBER 10, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Betty Kaul, Jim Pay
Bob & Caroline Chandler
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Ben Davis
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: David Pastor, Dave Bernard
Servers: Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy
Snacks: Receptions

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Lay Reader: Ben Tomlinson
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Darlene Kelly, Drew Wilson
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Marge Culver, Kate Klonowski
Servers: Kathy & Leroy Ford►

Clean-Up:

Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel

Snacks:

Gina Cook, Anne Melfo

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Sam Koch
Jess Barnes, Cliff Cribbs
Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Courtney Began
Counters: Bruce McCain, Jim Duffy
Servers: Michele Namitka, Darlene Kelly
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Betty Kaul, Marilyn Wrights

DECEMBER 24, 2017 – 10:00 PM

Lay Reader: Carole Snider
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Diane Gressley, Donn Whyte
Kate Klonowski, George Snider
Commons: Dave Bernard
Sound: Doug Fawcett

DECEMBER 31, 2017

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Jess Barnes
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jon Thompson
Servers: Sue & Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Marla Corrado, Bridget Sproul

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

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9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

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