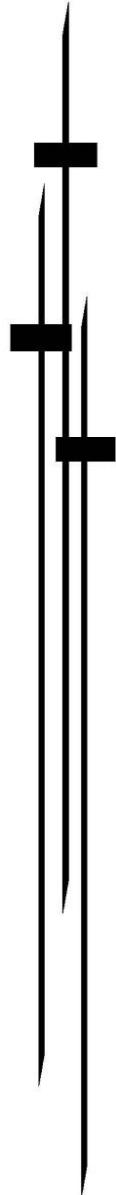
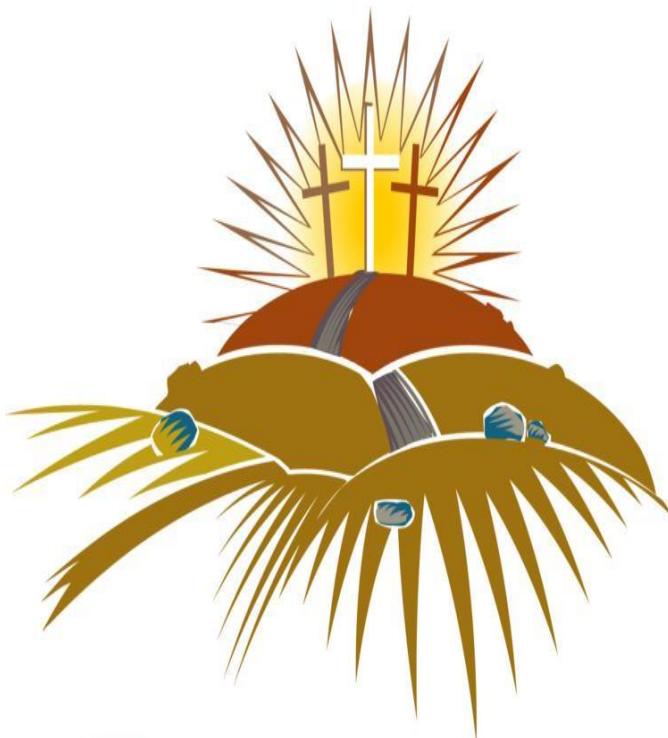


# The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

**FEBRUARY, 2018**



# LENT

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

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

### ***...Let's Give It Up for Lent!***

Apparently the Garden of Eden isn't the only place with the problematic allure of an *Apple* [more accurately, "the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge"]. On January 6<sup>th</sup> *Apple Inc.* received a letter from two of its larger shareholders, asking that the company consider developing software that would help parents limit their children's phone usage. It seems the issue of phone *addiction* among young people is becoming a growing concern in the U.S., as increasingly more parents report that their children have an almost pathological attachment to their phones. I would point out, however, that it's not just a problem with children; nor is it limited to the use of one's phone.

There are adult members of my extended family who behave as if they've been completely hypnotized by their electronic devices. Their excessive use of "social media" has essentially shrunk their social *lives*, and greatly reduced their face-to-face interactions with others. I have friends who have "un-friended" some of their lifelong friends, because of their posting of certain political viewpoints. And while I myself have thus far avoided being sucked into the swampland of unbridled social media engagement, I admit that from time-to-time I do suffer from severe bouts of obsessive news watching. [sad!] But in my defense, how else can I hope to distinguish the real news from the fake?

Fortunately, there is some genuine Good News that can actually help us address these pitiful problems of our over-privileged lives. This month, we enter the Season of Lent - a time when Christians traditionally contemplate the journey leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It's also a good time for us to consider our own journey of life and faith. And there are two basic Lenten practices that could prove particularly helpful for us this year. The first, is to "give-up" something, as a way of remembering the self-giving life of Jesus Christ. The second, is to use that freed-up time or resources to "take-up" something positive. ►

For example, rather than spending time on social media, use that time to plan and engage in a social event or outing. Contact one of your “un-friended-former-friends” and offer to try to rebuild that fractured relationship. Set-aside a block of time in your home as being “phone free” [believe it or not, texts, emails and other messages don’t require an immediate response]. Or, like me, take a break from the soul-sucking 24 hour news cycle, and take-in some of the good news that is found in inspirational writings, inspiring stories [historical or fictional], and engaging conversations with people in your life who truly matter to you. [If your Tuesday evenings in Lent are open, I hope we can talk!]

Now, obviously, you and I don’t need a special season to “give-up” some of our excessive or obsessive practices, or to “take-up” new and positive projects or behaviors. What we do need, is the desire and decision to *do it*, and the dedicated commitment to follow through with it. I pray that this Lenten Season will be particularly meaningful and inspiring for each of us, and that we will continue to find strength and support from one another in all the seasons of our lives.

With you on the Lenten Journey,  
Pastor Dave

***...Let's Observe Lent!***

This year’s Lenten Season begins February 14<sup>th</sup>, with our Ash Wednesday Soup Supper at 6:30 in Pilgrim Hall, followed by our Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7:00. Then, for the next five Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:15, I’ll be offering a study on the topic “How on Earth Can We be Spiritual?” For this series, I will be using some ideas I have been gleaning from a set of daily devotional reading by Richard Rohr.

Rohr is a Franciscan priest, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His teaching and writings are “grounded in the Franciscan alternative orthodoxy - practices of contemplation and self-emptying, expressing itself in radical compassion, particularly for the socially marginalized.” Or as I like to put it, “he writes some really deep stuff that makes you ponder what Life is about, and how to make a positive difference in the lives of people who are in need.” ►

Each Tuesday evenings, we will also take time to share the issues and questions, thoughts and insights that each participant brings to the table. It will be an excellent opportunity for us all to more deeply explore, share, and live-out our Faith. I hope you can attend, and bring a friend! ~ Pastor Dave

### **At Our Mardi Gras Service on Sunday, Feb.11th...**

...We will take a special offering for the UCC Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns - and the ONA Program. The Open and Affirming [ONA] Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community within the UCC, and helps UCC congregations bear witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome to *all* people.

### **FYI...**

Phyllis Molnar is still staying with her son in Wadsworth. If you'd like to contact her, you can do so at 257 Cara Way, Wadsworth, Ohio 44218 or 330-336-8025

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 MINISTRY**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018



Stained glass window project, with Art 5 Glass, has been delayed due to the artist's health issues.

The Arlington Property: A bathroom exhaust fan has been installed in Unit A at the renter's request. New lattice has been partially installed around the porch and will be finished as weather permits. The gutters on Unit B have been re-pitched to correct water run-off. ►

The thermostat in the Commons Area has been temporarily fixed. A short in the wire will be dealt with in the spring. The Lennox pulse furnaces have been installed at a cost of approximately \$5500.

## NEWS FROM OCWM

Thanks go to everyone who participated in the Hunger meal on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Meals for 60 were planned, and only about 30 people showed up. Needless to say, there were ample seconds and takeaways, including lots of cookies. There was even enough to take to St. Herman's. The rising costs of food items was noted, and that will have to be taken into account in planning for future meals. The next hunger meal will be on March 4, 2018 at Bethany UCC.



Recyclers for aluminum cans in Medina have not been found. Perhaps it is time for someone else to collect the cans and redeem them at recyclers nearer to the church. However, the cans continue to fill the barrel in the lower commons.

Thanks go to BUCC members and friends who continue to donate food items and other things not covered by food stamps. In October through December 2017, 95 bags of food and other things were delivered to the hunger centers at Brookside and at Country Corner by the dedicated person who wishes to be anonymous.

The mitten tree continues to fill up with hats, scarfs, and gloves and mittens. Two treefuls have been delivered to the hunger centers since last fall, and a third is just about ready to go. Thanks to all who have been filling up the tree.

By the time you read this, OCWM ministry will have met to select dates for the designated offerings during 2018. BUCC is among the churches of the denomination who participate in the five UCC offerings.

The response to the request for blankets, coats, and clothing to be distributed at the hunger meal on January 4<sup>th</sup> was overwhelming (the bags of items filled a SUV!). ►

The items were placed on tables, and participants took what they needed. There were four bags remaining, and they were taken to St. Herman's along with the leftover food items from the hunger meal. Thank you to all who participated, especially those who came up with the idea and spearheaded the effort. I am not sure of all those who participated, but many thanks go to them (they know who they are).

## **NOTES AND ASIDES**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Our book for this month is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. It is a memoir of a family and culture in crises in an Appalachian town. It probes into the "white working class." "Our discussion will take place on February 5th at 1 p.m. in the Parlor." Caroline Chandler will be our leader for this discussion.



### **FLOWER MINISTRY**



Flowers are placed in the front of the church every Sunday to honor/celebrate your family/friends/events. A new sign up chart for 2018 has been hung on the west wall just inside the door to the narthex. Information from this chart goes to Jeannette, our office manager, so she may put the information in the Bulletin each week.

Put your name on the chart, fill out the information form found in the pocket below the chart and turn this information in to Joy Garapic. Thank you.



## FOOD PANTRY

February - Macaroni & Cheese or

Craft Cupboard - School Supplies - Pencils, Paper, Crayons, etc.

## WOMEN UNITED

Will **NOT** meet in February.



## MUSIC



On Sunday February 11 at 10:00 AM, Brecksville United Church of Christ will host a Mardi Gras service featuring live New Orleans-style jazz music. The ensemble will include Mardi Gras regulars Eric Seddon, clarinet; Pastor Dave Shackle, trumpet; Steve Ostrow, trombone; Mark Mazak, tuba; and Steve Kraus, banjo. The service is followed by a gala potluck downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please plan on joining us for this festive event. Bring a friend!

**SEASONAL CHOIR** - Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week on Thursday Feb. 15 from 7-8 PM. These rehearsals run weekly over the course of Lent. Seasonal choir provides a wonderful opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual preparation for Holy Week, which is scheduled for March 25-April 1 this year. Listening CDs will be available to help make the learning process easier. High school students are welcome to participate.

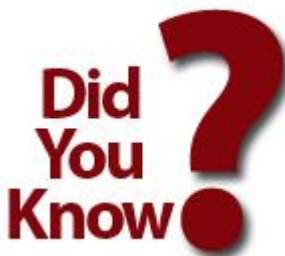


## ARTS RENAISSANCE TREMONT

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

3pm, Sunday, March 18  
**BACH 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 14<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
CLEVELAND, OH 44113



**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.



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

February 3:	Dave Shackle
	Connor Rowitz
February 5:	Anna Mary Fisher
	Michalina Melfo-Fawcett
February 7:	Julie Bernard
February 8:	Marge Culver
February 10:	Michelle Rogers
February 11:	Judi Smith
February 12:	Jeanne Cowden
	Ian Stewart
February 13:	Cliff Stenzel
February 22:	Drew Demko
	Garrett Demko
	Bill Toneff
	Victor Melfo-Fawcett
February 25:	Darlene Kelly
February 26:	Briana Brown
	Kim Stefanini
February 27:	Doug Lightbody
	David Pastor
February 29:	Diane Gressley

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

## CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY, 2018

#### **Thursday, FEBRUARY 1**

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

#### **Friday, FEBRUARY 2**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

#### **Saturday, FEBRUARY 3**

11am Mardi Gras  
Rehearsal

#### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 4**

10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour  
11am CE Mtg. Library

#### **Monday, FEBRUARY 5**

1 pm Book Discussion  
7 pm Facilities –Library  
7pm Spiritual Life

#### **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 6**

**Wednesday, FEBRUARY 7**  
4:30 pm **NO** Recorder  
Dulcimer  
7:00 pm Council

#### **Thursday, FEBRUARY 8**

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

#### **Friday, FEBRUARY 9**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

#### **Saturday, FEBRUARY 10**

#### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 11**

10 am Mardi Gras Worship  
11 am Mardi Gras Potluck!  
5:30 pm Youth Percussion  
6 pm Youth Ministry

#### **Monday, FEBRUARY 12**

7 pm Welcome & Growth  
Task force

#### **Tuesday, FEBRUARY, 13**

**Wednesday, FEBRUARY 14**  
4:30 pm Recorder Dulcimer  
Guitar  
6:30 pm Soup Supper  
7 pm Service of Ashes  
And Communion

#### **Thursday, FEBRUARY 15** **PILLAR DEADLINE**

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

#### **Friday, FEBRUARY 16**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

#### **Saturday, FEBRUARY 17**

**Sunday, FEBRUARY 18**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

#### **Monday, FEBRUARY 19**

**Tuesday, FEBRUARY 20**  
7 pm Lenten Study  
PH

#### **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 21**

4:30 pm Recorder Dulcimer  
Guitar

#### **Thursday, FEBRUARY 22**

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

#### **Friday, FEBRUARY 23**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

#### **Saturday, FEBRUARY 24**

#### **Sunday, FEBRUARY 25**

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

#### **Monday, FEBRUARY 26**

**Tuesday, FEBRUARY 27**  
7 pm Lenten Study  
PH

#### **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 28**

4:30 pm Recorder Dulcimer  
Guitar

**\*THE OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAYS.\***

## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

### FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel  
Ushers: Betsey & Joe Wilson  
Julie & Dave Bernard  
Acolyte: Grace Hunt  
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt  
Sound: Max Roha  
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver  
Flowers: Anne Melfo  
Nursery: Courtni Began  
C.E Teacher: Kathleen Stewart  
Counters: Nancy Stella, Carole  
Snider  
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford  
Clean Up: Sue Stenzel, Jill Zedan  
Snacks: Julie Bernard, Max Roha  
Snow Herder: Doug Fawcett

### FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Lay Reader: David Pastor  
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz  
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
Betty Kaul, Sam Koch  
Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
Peace Candle: Ben Davis  
Sound: Ben Tomlinson  
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard  
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz  
Nursery: Jon Cook  
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer  
Counters: Matt Wolbert, Kathy  
Pastor  
Servers: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Clean-Up: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Snacks: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Snow Herder: Joe Wilson

### FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly  
Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
Ushers: Kate Klonowski, Matt  
Wolbert, Chad &  
Bridget Sproul  
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett  
Peace Candle: Drew Demko  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Nursery: Valerie Tyler  
C.E Teacher: Heidi Spangler  
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Bruce  
McCain  
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel  
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy  
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Anne  
Melfo  
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

### FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul  
Head Usher: Matt Wolbert  
Ushers: Dan & Ian Stewart  
George & Carole Snider  
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart  
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski  
Sound: Kevin Smith  
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith  
Flowers: Julie Bernard  
Nursery: Jess Barnes  
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo  
Counters: Dave Bernard, Sue  
Stenzel  
Servers: Caroline Chandler,  
Joy Garapic  
Clean Up: Doug Fawcett & Anne  
Melfo  
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Diane  
Gressley  
Snow Herder: Jim Demko

# *The Pillar*

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**United Church of Christ**

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