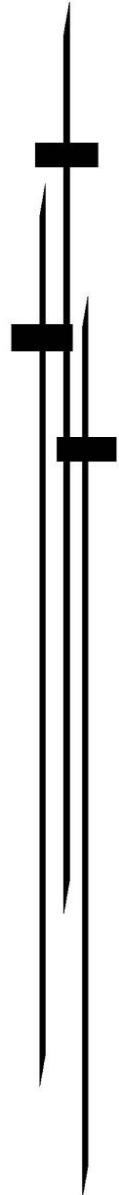


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

September 2018



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on “Strangers and Hospitality”...

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels, unaware.” [Hebrews 13:4]

If you were to ask people, “Is your church friendly?” most would probably say, “Absolutely!” And they’d be right. Go into almost any church, and you’ll see the members greeting, smiling and talking with each other. The problem is, that when a first-time visitor [or “stranger”] comes in, he or she is often barely noticed. We members can be so engaged in catching-up with one another, that we fail to catch a glimpse of our newly arrived guests. Or we see that person, but simply continue our conversations, figuring that someone else will speak to them, or we’ll greet them later. We tend to forget how long even a minute can feel when we’re in a strange place - especially when surrounded by “friendly” people who seem to be ignoring us!

It’s important for us as Church members to think about how we meet, greet, and treat the “strangers” who come among us. It’s also important that we consider how people who are visiting us for the first time might feel as they wait to be greeted, or as they fumble-through some of those worship practices that are so familiar to us. Those people who have been personally invited by one of us - who have someone to greet them, sit with them and explain what’s happening - probably feel pretty welcome and at ease. And even those visitors who wander-in on their own may feel fairly comfortable, if they happen to have a Church backgrounds similar to ours. Of course, we do get those visitors who find us on our website or in the *Brecksville Magazine*, and bravely decide to check us out. Oftentimes, it’s because there’s something happening in their lives that has triggered the desire for a spiritual or social connection: a move, a new job, a new child, or some personal problem or crossroad. These are the people who can really benefit from one of our member’s personal attention and helpful hospitality.

For the most part, we at BUCC do a good job of spotting and welcoming our guests, but we can always strive to do better. Even if you’re not sure if the person you see is a “first-timer” or an “old-timer”, simply smiling, going up and saying “Hi, I’m Dave!”►

is a good way to break the ice. [Of course, if your name is Kathy, it could be a bit awkward]. Some of the key times to be aware of those who visit us are when they first arrive [just walking through the door can be a big step for some]; pre-worship and announcement time [a chance to fill them in on what's happening and about to happen]; during the Passing of the Peace and Communion [briefly explain what's going on]; and when the worship service is over [help them move into our "Circle," personally invite them to Coffee Hour, walk with them down to Pilgrim Hall, and introduce them to others].

Perhaps the best way for us to be sensitive to those who are visiting, is to think back to a time when we ourselves were in a new place or situation. Think about how you felt; who helped you feel included; what they did; and how good that made you feel! We really are a "friendly church" - but it's important that we remain committed to extending that friendliness to others; that we watch-out for those visitors who come among us. By doing so, we can help them feel that they are more than just visitors - that they truly are our welcomed guests!

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sunday September 9th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. all BUCC Youth ages 12 and up are invited to gather in Pilgrim Hall for our first Fall meeting. We'll spend some time catching-up, getting to know each other, play some fun and challenging games, share some snacks and some ideas about our plans for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend and feel free to bring a friend!

SAVE-THE-DATE ...

...OUR CHURCH RETREAT will be held on Saturday, October 13th at Hinckley Reservation from 10:30 am - 4:00 pm. Anyone interested in helping coordinate the food and other activities for this event, or would like to know more about it, please talk with Pastor Dave.

Teatime for Peace - At BUCC

On September 12th, the Southern Hills Interfaith Association and CAIR [Council on America-Islamic Relations] Ohio will be hosting an event called *Teatime for Peace*. This will be an opportunity to deepen the understanding and relationship between our Muslim neighbors and ourselves, through guided conversations over tea and treats.

Teatime for Peace is an initiative that grew out of the desire to counterbalance the political rhetoric of divisiveness and fear directed against American Muslims. The idea is to break through misinformed stereotypes by building bridges, focusing on our similarities, and celebrating our delightful differences! With approximately 70% of Americans not knowing anyone who is Muslim, or having little accurate information about Islam, it can be easy to listen to the voices of negativity, prejudice and fear. This gathering offers an excellent opportunity for people of diverse communities to get to know one another, and to recognize and celebrate our shared humanity and common aspirations.

This event will be held at in Pilgrim Hall, as part of this year's Welcome & Growth emphasis. Registration/Sign-in begins at 6:30 pm, with the program starting at 7:00.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

The project to document all building systems continues.



Estimates are in the process of being obtained for a new drinking fountain located on the wall between the restrooms as you enter Pilgrim Hall.

Our elevators were inspected on 7/3 and a subsequent violation report was received regarding our maintenance records.

Upon further review it was determined BUCC was required to purchase a "Maintenance Control Program", at a one-time cost of \$500, which was mandated in 2018 by the State but BUCC was never notified. It is provided by Gable Elevator it will be implemented by mid-August.

Our old mailbox has been replaced and a new one constructed and installed by Wes Novak. It is now located on the office wall to the right of the office door. The old mailbox has been removed.

An estimate for a new sanctuary roof (for the summer of 2019) is approximately \$25,000.

It has been brought to our attention by our financial secretary, Joy Garapic, that the new rental agreements for the recently rented classroom do not provide any increase for cleaning services provided by our custodian, Sam Alai. The Facilities Ministry recommends that a total of \$50 per month be taken from the new monthly rents and added to Sam's monthly payment.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

To All Chairpersons & All Members Of A Ministry

In September/October the chairpersons of BUCC Ministries will be holding meetings to determine the needs and wishes of those members and their ministries. It is important to try to find the right fit for each

person who is giving of his/her time to volunteer.



Ministries

We want you to be happy doing what you're doing to help with the work of Brecksville United Church of Christ.

The Leadership Development Ministry will be meeting with each of the chairpersons to review these roles. We encourage members of Ministries to reflect upon their present roles and to speak to the Ministry chair or someone associated with Leadership Development Ministry with any thoughts for improvement or change. Also, if you know anyone who has expressed interest in volunteering in any one of the ministries, please let us know. Thank you for all the work you do to continue to make our church home welcoming and organized – a happy combination. ►

Leadership Development: Kathy Smith, Cliff Cribbs, Julie Bernard, Bridget Sproul, Linda Kriynovich, Carole Snider

MEMBERSHIP

RALLY DAY POTLUCK

SEPTEMBER 9 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

Get creative and make a new recipe to share - a main dish or salad etc
Get your name on the signup sheet with a Membership Committee member.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED so pick up some paper, pencils, pens or whatever you see and bring to the dinner. Looking forward to seeing you September 9!

SAVE THE DATE.....November 11 Thanksgiving Dinner

NEWS FROM OCWM



The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, October 7th at Iglesia Immanuel (formerly Bethany UCC). We expect about 30 to 50 meals will be served. The usual sign-up board will be in the narthex for BUCC members and friends to indicate their interest in helping. The menu will be mostaccioli and meatballs, salad, and cookies for dessert. We could use some help in the form of home baked cookies.

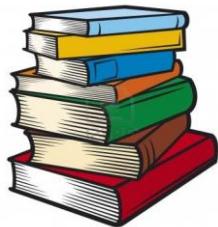
The next designated offering will be Neighbors In Need and will be received on Sunday, October 7th. Interpretive materials appear in the Sunday bulletins and in the October Pillar.

The food donations continue to appear in the basket by the church office door. Thanks go to all the BUCC members and friends who faithfully provide these items. They are stored in the closet by the ramp door until about 25 to 35 bags have been accumulated. Then our resident delivery elf delivers the items to Brookside and to Community Corner.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The next Book Discussion focuses on Britt-Marie Was Here by Fredrik Backman and will meet in the parlor at 1:00 p.m., September 10th. Britt-Marie's husband labeled her as socially incompetent. We'll decide! Join us as we consider this extremely straightforward character. This book will probably add to your familiarity with some British terminology.



FOOD PANTRY



September - Cereal

BUCC MUSIC MINISTRY

Our 2018-2019 church season is about to begin with Rally Day, scheduled for September 9. Here is a list of BUCC's music ensembles, along with starting dates and times for each group:



Joyful Noise Choir (K through 5th grade) - First practice is scheduled for Thursday Sept. 6 from 5:30 to 6:15 pm. We learn diverse songs about living Jesus' message of love, peace, justice, and compassion. Music is usually followed by some sort of activity - games, playground, charades, etc.

Adult Choir (high school students welcome) - First rehearsal is Thursday September 6. **Note our new starting time: 7:00 to 8:30 pm.** The adult choir prepares weekly anthems for Sunday services, and leads the congregation's hymn-singing. Choir is a great way to prepare spiritually for Sunday worship; it's a fun combination of choral singing, teamwork, and fellowship.

Youth Percussion Group (6th grade and older): First practice is Sunday September 9 from 5:30 to 6:00 pm, before youth ministry at 6:00. This group learns basic rhythm patterns for accompanying music at Sunday worship, including choir pieces or incidental music (prelude, postlude, etc.) Playing percussion is an ancient form of music-making; it's also a good way to relax and meditate.

Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble (youth and adults are welcome to participate): First practice is scheduled for Wednesday September 12 from 4:30 to 5:00.

This group plays preludes for Sunday services approximately once a month. Melody lines and chords are printed with both notes and note letters.

Listening CDs are also provided to make the learning process easier. Dave is happy to teach beginners on any of these instruments as needed. Instrumentalists (all ages welcome):

If you play an instrument and would be comfortable sharing your musical gifts with the congregation, let Dave know so he can keep you in mind for incidental music or to accompany a choral piece.

Private piano lessons (all ages welcome): Private piano lessons will begin on Wednesday September 12. Dave will be in touch with students from last spring; if you'd like to start off new this fall, please contact him for scheduling.

Seasonal Choir (high school students welcome): First practice in preparation for this year's Christmas cantata will be on Thursday October 11 from 7:00 to 8:00.

Please consider participating in one of our many musical ensembles at BUCC this season. Feel free to sit in on a practice to see if it's something you might enjoy. All of our groups are always open to new members. Contact Dave with any questions.



Birthdays of the Month

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

September 1:	Phyllis Hassler
	Dan Renovetz
September 3:	Joanne Cook
September 6:	Erika Kolar
	Kirk Sanderson
September 7:	Betty Kaul
September 10:	Ryan Smith
	Gabriella Gagliano
September 11:	Kathy Smith
September 12:	Jill Zedan
September 14:	Rebecca Anderson
	Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer
September 15:	Jane Cribbs
September 17:	Natalie Corrado
	Valerie Tyler
	Holden Paul Esser
September 22:	Nancy Stella
September 23:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
	Matt Wolbert
September 26:	David Debick
	Annie Demko
September 28:	Jayden Kolar
September 29:	Nichole Smith

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

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER, 2018

Saturday, SEPT. 1

Sunday, SEPT. 2

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, SEPT. 3

Tuesday, SEPT. 4

Wednesday, SEPT. 5

Thursday, SEPT. 6

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

Friday, SEPT. 7
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, SEPT. 8

Sunday, SEPT. 9

10 am Worship
11 am Rally Day Potluck
11 am Spiritual Life
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, SEPT. 10

1 pm Book Discussion
7 pm Facilities/Library

Tuesday, SEPT. 11

Wednesday, SEPT. 12

Private Piano Lessons Begin
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul/Guitar
6:30 pm Registration
7pm Teatime for Peace - PH

Thursday, SEPT. 13

10 am Leadership Dev.
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, SEPT. 14
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, SEPT. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, SEPT. 16

10 am Worship Service
After Service – CE Meeting – Library
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, SEPT. 17

Tuesday, SEPT. 18

Wednesday, SEPT. 19

4:30 pm Recorder/Dul/Guitar
7pm Council

Thursday, SEPT. 20

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

Friday, SEPT. 21
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, SEPT. 22

Sunday, SEPT. 23

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

Monday, SEPT. 24

Tuesday, SEPT. 25

Wednesday, SEPT., 26

4:30 pm Recorder/Dul/Guitar

Thursday, SEPT., 27

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

Friday, Sept. 28
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, Sept. 29

Sunday, Sept. 30

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

Lay Reader: Dot Bailey
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Bob & Caroline Chandler
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Nancy Stella, Bruce McCain
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-up: Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks: Betty Kaul, Anne Melfo

SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Matt Wolbert, Jon Thompson
Servers: Rally
Clean-Up: Day
Snacks: Potluck

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Joe & Betsy Wilson
Kathy Smith, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle: David Pastor
Sound: Betty Kaul
Comns Grtr: Julie Bernard
Flowers: Jonathan Cook►

Counters: Marge Culver, Dave Bernard
Servers: Joanne Cook, Julie Bernard
Clean-Up: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Pat Rehm, Gina Cook

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Diane Gressley,
Dot & Stu Bailey
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Stu Bailey, Kate Klonowski
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Sue Stenzel

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Kate Klonowski, Betty Kaul, David Rtichey, Ben Tomlinson
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
Counters: Jim Duffy, David Pastor
Servers: Joy Garapic, Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Bridget Sproul

The Pillar

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