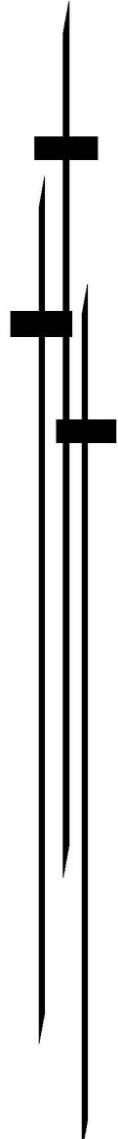
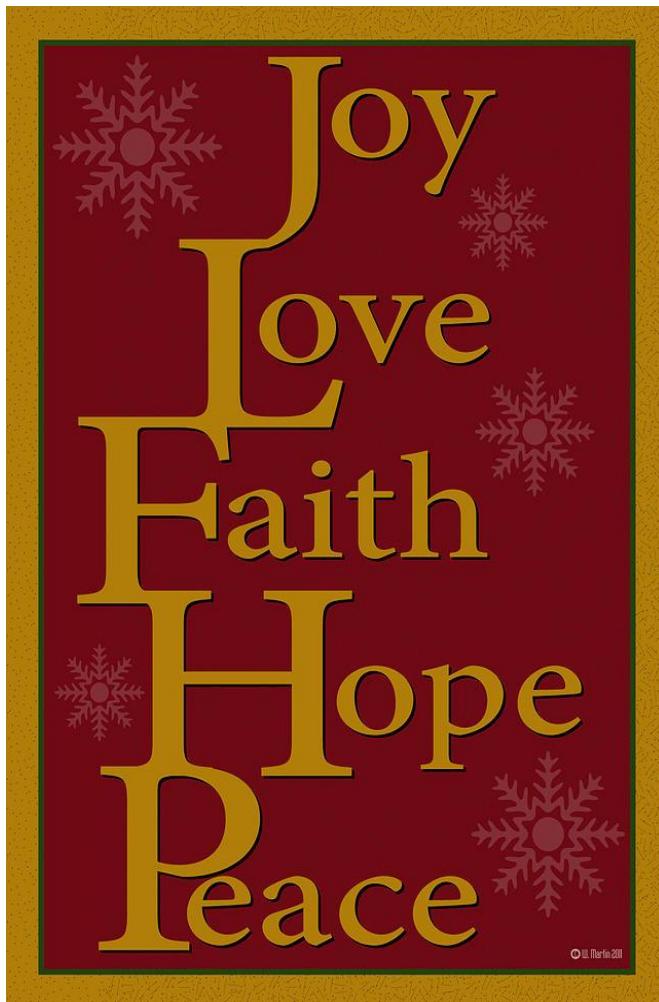


The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

December 2018



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on the Advantages of Keeping Advent...?

December 2nd marks the start of Advent, the beginning of a new Church Year. Advent is a time of hoping, waiting, and joyful anticipation, as we prepare to celebrate anew the birth of Jesus Christ. In a society that tends to worship speed and instant gratification, the Church's call to patiently wait and watch can seem a bit strange. And in these fast-paced days of hectic holiday overload, the Church's message to slow-down and keep things simple, seems simply unrealistic. One good way for you and me to stay centered in this culturally-chaotic season, is to remember what [or Who] it is for which we are waiting and watching: God's Living, Loving Presence among us.

With the birth of Jesus Christ, the Holy One touches the world in a simple, yet spectacular way - reminding us that there is no place or time on earth that is beyond God's care and influence. Advent helps us to be patient, and to recognize the Holy Presence even among the haste and hassle of this busy time of year. It reminds us that the Holy One meets us wherever we go, even in those places and people we might least expect. In the stores, on the streets, throughout our communities, there are multitudes of people who you and I can meet and greet with Christ' calming peace. And when you and I interact with others in ways that are kind and patient, we humbly do our part to help transform this time of hustle and bustle, into a season of genuine joy and peace.

As our society assails us with the message that Christmas is really about *stuff* [preferably big and expensive stuff - and lots of it], Advent helps us to focus on the genuine meaning of this Season. That's why I believe it's a good and healthy practice for us to observe and engage in the Season of Advent. By focusing on Advent in our homes and in our Church Home, we can filter-out some of that constant clamoring for buying more stuff to stuff our stockings. With our eyes, ears, and hearts tuned to anticipate the true gift of Christmas - Divine Love embodied in Jesus Christ - we can prepare ourselves to better receive and appreciate that precious gift.

It's not always easy to keep our focus on Advent, or on the true meaning of Christmas. ►

A couple things that we can do, as individuals or as families, is to delve into our wonderful BUCC Advent Devotional Booklet. These reflections from our members may be brief, but they contain tremendous food for thought. We can also participate in our weekly worship celebrations, our Choir's Christmas Cantata, Christmas Caroling to our homebound members, and our delightful Children's Pageant. This entire Advent Season offers us some wonderful activities here at BUCC, culminating with our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service. I hope that each of you will take advantage of the many good things offered here throughout this Holy Season; and that your holidays may be filled with Holy Days of Peace, Joy and Love. 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 9th, following Coffee Hour and a light lunch, our youth, children, and adults will depart from 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. Please plan to join us - and invite a guest!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion worship service will be held on Monday, December 24th at 10:00 pm. Please plan on joining us for this moving and meaningful gathering, and certainly feel free to invite you extended family and friends! And please let them know that our Communion Table is always open and welcoming to all people, regardless of their faith tradition!

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY... Please mark your 2019 calendar for these two important and informative upcoming events, on Jan. 15th and 29th ►

What are ADVANCE DIRECTIVES?

All adults admitted to any hospital will be asked if they have Advance Directives. Mark Lehman, LISW (retired Hospital Social Worker) will present an overview of the 4 documents that make up Advance Directives. The documents are the Living Will/ Health Care Power of Attorney/Guardianship and Organ Donation.

The presentation will be on Tuesday January 15th from 7p-8p in Pilgrim Hall.

UNDERSTANDING CARE AFTER A HOSPITAL ADMISSION

Patients and families are provided an overwhelming amount of information on care in the community after a hospital stay. Mark Lehman, LISW (retired Hospital Social Worker) will present an overview of the various care options in the community, what is fitting for the patient and the how it is paid for.

The presentation will be on Tuesday January 29th from 7p-8p in Pilgrim Hall

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The **Christmas Pageant** this year will be *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and will be presented on Sunday, December 9th during the service. Every year the children and CE volunteers get us in the Christmas spirit! We hope you will be able to join us for this very special, meaningful, and fun tradition!

LAST-MINUTE MART! On Sunday, December 16th (during coffee hour after the Cantata), we invite those who have crafts or gifts to sell to bring them to BUCC! For a suggested donation of only \$25, you can set up a table in Pilgrim Hall to offer items to sell to support your small business, crafty habit, baking, or charity efforts. The rest of us can then enjoy shopping for Christmas presents with the knowledge we are supporting each other and also a great cause! To sign up for table space, please contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498, keightykay@gmail.com or during coffee hour. All proceeds will benefit the Pastor's Fund



FINANCE



Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

During the month of October, a check was sent to the Western Reserve Association in the amount of \$5,683.50. The Neighbors in Need collection was \$1,046, and the third quarter OCWM contribution was \$4,637.50.

NEWS FROM OCWM

By the time you read this, there should be two small Christmas trees in the narthex. One is to be used as the “mitten tree”, on which are placed hats, mitten, and scarves supplied by BUCC members and friends. When the tree is full of these “decorations”, the items are removed and sent to local hunger centers when people receive their food items from the food pantry. This amazing tree will fill up with “decorations” numerous times over the cold weather months.



The other tree will be used for students in the Prentiss Autism Center of the Positive Education program located in Fairview Park. ►

All of these students have significant cognitive problems and severe behavior problems, as well as a diagnosis of autism. Currently 97 students from 32 different school districts in Northeast Ohio are being served. The tree will be “decorated” with tags indicating a student’s size and item needed or desired. This tree will appear right after Thanksgiving. BUCC members and friends are asked to select a “decoration” and return the desired item by the middle of December.

The Christmas offering will be received on Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, 2018 at the late service. The proceeds will be used to provide gifts and pension supplementation for clergy and lay workers in all stages of their lives and ministries. Also included are health care premium supplementation and emergency grants. These funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these “veterans of the cross”.

A big “thank you” goes to all those who participated in last month’s hunger meal. The next hunger meal will be on January 6, 2019 at Iglesia Emmanuel.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our book discussion this month will be about *DIMESTORE*, written by Lee Smith. It’s a story of the author’s youth set deep in the mountains of Virginia, a place of coal miners, tent revivals, etc. We will meet in the Parlor at 1 p.m. on Monday, December 3rd. All are welcome



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 16 at our 10 AM service, the adult choir will present *Christmas Seekers* by John Purifoy. The dynamic piece features a combination of contemporary and traditional numbers. The choir will be accompanied by flutes, trumpets, trombone, violin, percussion, and narrators. Please plan on joining us Sunday December 16 to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition!



WOMEN UNITED/INVITATION TO ALL

Once again all are invited to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church for their Annual Advent Tea on Tues., December 4 at 7:30PM. We will gather in the Narthex of CRLC at 7:20PM so we can all sit together for the service. Afterward cookies and tea will be served in the Community Room.



This a lovely and meaningful service which all whom attended in previous years left with raised spirits.

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church is located on Route Rt.21, (S of Route 82) between Brecksville Community Center and the Parkway Rd.



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!***

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 9



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 _____***

CALENDAR DECEMBER 2018

Saturday, DEC. 1		Wednesday, DEC. 12 7pm Council	Sunday, DEC. 23 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour
Sunday, DEC. 2 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour		Thursday, DEC. 13 1 pm Bible Study 7pm Cantata Practice	Monday, DEC. 24 10 pm Candlelight/ Communion
Monday, DEC 3 1 pm Book Discussion 7 pm Facilities/Library		Friday, DEC. 14 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tuesday, DEC. 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Tuesday, DEC 4		Saturday, DEC. 15 *PILLAR DEADLINE*	Wednesday, DEC. 26
Wednesday, DEC.5		10 am Cantata Practice 12 pm Cantata at Chippewa Pl.	Thursday, DEC. 27 1 pm Bible Study
Thursday, DEC. 6 1 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Recorder/Dul/Guitar 5:30 pm Joyful Noise/ Pageant Practice		Sunday, DEC. 16 10 am Worship/Cantata 11 am Coffee Hour/ Last Minute Mart	Friday, DEC. 28 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Friday, DEC.7 *OFFICE CLOSED*		Monday, DEC.17	Saturday, DEC. 29
Saturday, DEC.8		Tuesday, DEC.18	Sunday, DEC. 30 10am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour
Sunday, DEC. 9 10 am Worship/Pageant 11 am Coffee Hour 1 pm Caroling After Worship/Lunch		Wednesday, DEC.,19	Monday, DEC. 31 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Monday, DEC.10		Thursday, DEC. 20 1 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Gtr	
Tuesday, DEC. 11		Friday, DEC.21 *OFFICE CLOSED*	
		Saturday, DEC. 22	

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2, 2018

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler, Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Gina Cook (pageant Practice)
Counters: Nancy Stella, Dave Bernard
Servers: Carole Snider, Julie Bernard
Clean-up: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Betty Kaul, Dot Bailey
Snow Hrdr: Cliff Cribbs

DECEMBER 9, 2018

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Darlene Kelly, Kathy Smith, Dave Bernard
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski (Pageant)
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Betty Kaul, Joan Cook
Snacks: Gina Cook, Beth Rehling
Snow Hrdr: Dan Stewart

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Bob Chandler, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Beth Rehling, David Ritchey
Peace Candle: Michelina Fawcett
Sound: Amelia Tyler
Comns Grtr: Ben Tomlinson
Flowers: Valerie Tyler
Nursery: POINSETTIAS
C.E Teacher: Erin Tomlinson
Counters: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Servers: Marge Culver, Kathy Pastor
Clean-Up: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snow Hrdr: Susan Snyder, Sue Stenzel
Dave Bernard

DECEMBER 23, 2018

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Kate Klonowski, Matt Wolbert, Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Jonathan Cook
C.E. Teacher: Tia Began
Counters: Carole Snider, Jim Duffy
Servers: Marge Culver, Joy Garapic
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Dorie Gabor, Anne Melfo
Snow Hrdr: Doug Fawcett

DECEMBER 24, 2018

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Sam Koch, Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr: George & Carole Snider
Sound: Kathy Smith
Kevin Smith

DECEMBER 30, 2018

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Betty Kaul, Jill Zedan
Acolyte: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Peace Candle: Ryan Stewart
Sound: Natalie Corrado
Comns Grtr: Doug Fawcett
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Julie Bernard
C.E Teacher: Marla Corrado
Counters: Anne Melfo
Servers: David Pastor, Matt Wolbert
Clean-Up: Caroline Chandler, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snow Hrdr: Pat Rehm, Marilyn Wrights
Joe Began

***Merry Christmas & A Beautiful New Year To All! ***

The Pillar

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Brecksville
United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

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