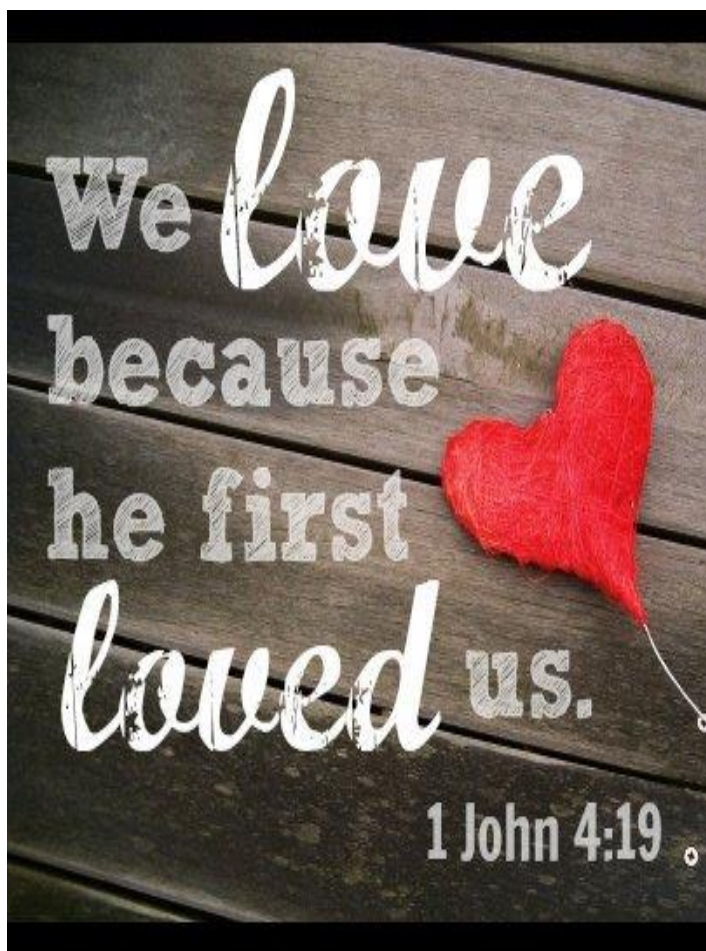


The *Pillar*
Brecksville United Church of Christ

February 2019



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on an Extended Epiphany....

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.
~ John 1:5

January 6th marked the beginning of the Epiphany Season, which continues until Ash Wednesday when Lent begins. This often happens by early or mid-February; but this year we have an extended Epiphany, with Ash Wednesday falling on March 6th. To me it seems somewhat fitting that this year we linger a bit longer in the Epiphany Season. *Epiphany* is when the Church celebrates the Light of Christ being revealed to the entire world - signaled by the visit of the Magi from the East. The Magi were a group of astronomer/astrologers who searched for the meaning of Life beyond the earthbound. By raising their sights to the heavens, they sought to better understand the Creative Source of Life on earth. And while their story in *Matthew* reveals little about them, it does provide us a guiding star [as it were] to help on our own journey of faith and enlightenment.

One truly important step in the journey toward enlightenment, is the willingness to be open to *all* people. Because if you and I only engage with those who are like us - those with whom we feel comfortable or close - then we will miss-out on discovering the sacred component of the strangers we encounter. Imagine if Joseph had closed the door on those Magi, because of their odd clothes, their foreign accents, or their political or religious differences. Little Baby Jesus would have missed-out on some pretty awesome Christmas gifts.

One great gift any community of faith has to offer, is to extend a warm welcome to *any* stranger who comes among them. After all, we are all "strangers" to a certain degree [granted, some of us *stranger* than others], but that's a good thing! Because it challenges us to expand our thinking, to value our diversity, and to treasure the sacred uniqueness of one another and of ourselves. Every person you or I meet has something to offer; and often it's in our interacting with others, that our own Epiphany begins to break-forth. ►

So in the midst of the dark desire to build walls to exclude and separate, demonize and demoralize the “other” I’m glad that the Light of the Epiphany Season continues to shine long and brightly among us and within us!

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



At the January Facilities Ministry meeting a list of potential items was developed for action by the Ministry for the 2019 fiscal year. The list will be prioritized by determining the need, the expense and the time involved.

- Power-wash Front of Education Building
- Repair concrete steps in front of Church entrance
- Fix the lighting on Pilgrim Hall or install new fixtures
- Document existing paint (cans) to church areas, discarding old paint
- Organize and document office telephone wiring
- Document existing sound system with assistance from Max Roha & David Pastor
- Request council approval for fund raising for new sanctuary roof

- Scrape & paint exterior building drain pipes
- Clean narthex light fixtures and glass panels
- Automate all front door exterior light
- Investigate paper recycle bin
- Repair loose handle on front double doors
- Consult with Christian Ed about decluttering 2nd floor CE rooms
- Paint rear double doors
- Paint exterior hand railings
- Replace Common Area chairs
- Automate all HVAC vents in church ceiling
- Remove old organ in Pilgrim Hall
- Replace old driveway signs (children at play & not thru driveways)
- Repave parking lot

MEMBERSHIP

Upcoming Events:

Membership will announce February Bowling Party and a special birthday celebration in the bulletin. Please listen for details before services in the next few weeks.

NEWS FROM OCWM

The last hunger meal was served on Sunday, January 6th at Iglesia Emmanuel. Based on recent experience, about 20 or 30 people were expected. So 40 meals were prepared. However, about 50 or so people came, including children. We think this was a result of the country being shut down. If this is so, more careful preparation of meals is in order. Also, one or two extra servers might be needed.



Speaking of hunger meals, the hunger meals scheduled between now and August are as follows:

March 31 – Pearl Road UMC (estimated 60-70 meals) (?120-150?)

May 19 – Pearl Road UMC ►

August 4 – Iglesia Emmanuel (estimated 50-60 meals?)

Note: the PRUMC meals will be in partnership with Independence UMC

The designated offerings for 2019 are scheduled as follows:

ONA – to be determined

One Great Hour Of Sharing – March 31

EDNA – May 12

Strengthen The Church – June 9

Neighbors In Need – October 6

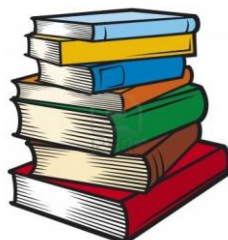
Christmas – December 24

The “decorations” have been taken off the mitten tree for a third time, and at the last count, nine bags of warm “decorations” have been taken to the hunger center for distribution when families receive food items. Thank you to all who have contributed.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our book discussion this month will be about *Called To Rise* written by David O. Brown and Michelle Burford. It is the true story of a Dallas police chief who inspired a nation with his response to the killing of 5 of his officers. He is a 33-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department from which he retired as chief in 2016. We will meet in the Parlor at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 4th. All are welcome to join us.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please note the **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be on **Sunday, February 3, 2019** immediately after the morning worship service. We will have the 2019 final slate of officers and the 2019 budget to approve.



FOOD PANTRY

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



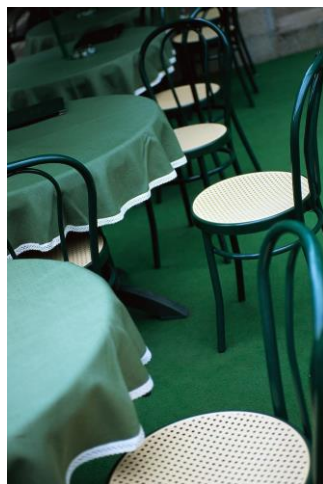
THE MITTEN TREE



The mitten tree is ongoing at BUCC and is waiting to be decorated with mittens, hats, socks, scarves, etc. The mittens and hats are given to the hunger centers that BUCC supports. The centers give these warm garments to the children. The need is ongoing throughout the winter months. In the past the mitten tree has always been successful, and we hope that you will be generous as usual.

AFTER WORSHIP LUNCH BUNCH

All are welcome to join this spirited group of BUCC folks after coffee hour for brunch and some fun conversation. We meet at the restaurant most Sundays between Noon-12:15 p.m. We've had as many as 16 join us on any given day. If you are single, widowed, a couple, or a family – anyone that just doesn't want to cook or dine alone, please join us. You'll be glad you did! We usually call in reservations in around 11:30-11:45 a.m. (to give the restaurant fair warning) especially when we have a large group. Pastor Dave, Dave Debick, Susan Snyder, Bridget & Chad Sproul, Kathy Smith and Marge Culver are regulars. Ask any of us how much fun we have!

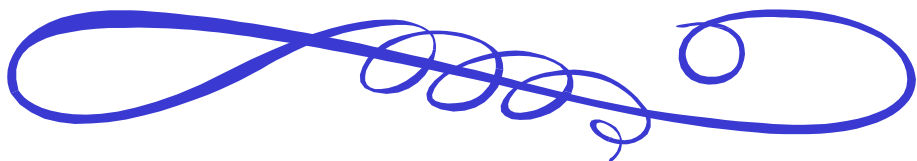


Did you know that the 2002 addition of the south entry and accessible elevator required many years of planning and activity? Appointed by Lenore Harris, then Moderator, one of the first jobs of the Land-Use Task Force was the 1989 acquisition of the Elsworth property on Arlington St. ►

This assured our accessibility of adequate parking area. With the retention of Myers Architects, several alternate plans for remodeling and/or adding to our building and siting an elevator were studied and evaluated. However, it required the acquisition of the Dixon property in 1994 to make the project viable with enough land available both for the addition and for the automobile access from both Arlington Street and Route 82. Finalizing plans, securing permits, successful fund raising, and the negotiating of construction contracts lead to the breaking of ground of our "Opening Doors" project in 2002.

OFFICE

Please contact the Office if you have a change of phone number, address or email address. Either call Jeannette at 440-526-4364 or email us at buccoh@sbcglobal.net .





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

February 3:	Dave Shackle
February 5:	Anna Mary Fisher Michelina 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
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 2019

Friday, FEB. 1
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, FEB.2

Sunday, FEB.3
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
Congregational Mtg.
CE Meeting

Monday, FEB. 4
1 pm Book Discussion
7 pm Facilities

Tuesday, FEB. 5

Wednesday, FEB.6
7pm Council

Thursday, FEB. 7
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEB .8
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, FEB. 9

Sunday, FEB. 10
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
Spiritual Life/Lib.
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, FEB.11

Tuesday, FEB.12
7-8pm Advance Directives
Presentation PH

Wednesday, FEB.,13
7pm Council

Thursday, FEB. 14
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEB.15
PILLAR DEADLINE
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, FEB.16

Sunday, FEB. 17
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, FEB. 18
PRESIDENT'S DAY

Tuesday, FEB. 19

Wednesday, FEB. 20
4:30 pm Rec/Dulcimer

Thursday, FEB. 21
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEB. 22
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, FEB. 23

Sunday, FEB. 24
10am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, FEB. 25

Tuesday, FEB. 26

Wednesday, FEB.27
4:30 pm Rec/Dulcimer

Thursday, FEB.28
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Ben Tomlinson, Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Marge Culer
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Nancy Stella, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Betty Kaul, Cliff Stenzel
Clean-up: Anne Melfo & Doug Fawcett
Snacks: Max Roha, Jill Zedan
Snow Hrdr: Chad Sproul

FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Diane Gressley, Darlene Kelly, Dan Stewart, Matt Wolbert
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Courtnei Began
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: Dave Bernard, Marge Culver
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Julie Bernard
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Gina Cook, Marilyn Wrights
Snow Hrdr: Cliff Cribbs

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Joe Wilson, Cliff Cribbs
Kate Klonowski, Jon Thompson
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Gina Cook
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Pat Rehm
Snow Hrdr: Dan Stewart

FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Beth Rehling, Jill Zedan
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Jonathan Cook
C.E. Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: David Pastor, Jon Thompson
Servers: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snacks: Susan Snyder, Bridget Sproul
Snow Hrdr: Dave Bernard

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

