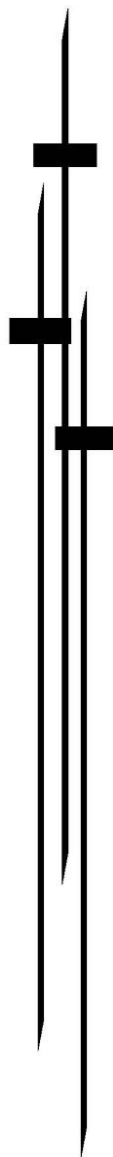


The *Pillar*  
Brecksville United Church of Christ

**March 2019**



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



## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

### ***...on How We Approach the Bible***

There are a lot of people who consider themselves to be experts on the *Bible*. That is, until they encounter someone who has actually read it! Many seem quite eager to either staunchly defend, or swiftly dismiss the Bible - often without having a clear understanding of the book itself. Some passionately insist that the Bible is the "Inerrant, Infallible Word of God". Others discount it as complete nonsense - in part, because of those zealous "Bible-Beaters!"

There are some serious troubles that arise when self-proclaimed Biblical literalists misuse the Scriptures to advance their own agendas. For example, merging the two Creation stories from *Genesis* into one, and then claiming that the resulting, convoluted narrative is historically and scientifically accurate, sets the stage for blindly denying countless scientific and historical truths. The refusal to recognize that many Biblical texts were composed as parable, poetry, myth, or allegory, can lead to the conclusion that every word is absolutely true. Sadly, this can include God commanding God's followers to "go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."<sup>1</sup> Samuel 15.3.

While there are parts of the Bible that were written as history, like all histories, the telling of the story carries the natural bias of the author. Intentionally or not, this bias tends to make the writer's societal group look more ethical and honorable, and their "enemies" appear more immoral, inhuman, and worthy of destruction. And when you add a Divine dimension to the mix, the justification for doing violence against the "other" acquires a mantle of a Holy "righteousness."

As people of faith, it's important that you and I find an approach to the Bible that honors its sacred nature, while appreciating the human component of its composition. Understanding the people and faith communities that created the various texts is a critical element in doing this.

It's also important to recognize our own personal biases and beliefs, which color our reading and interpretation of the Scriptures. Taking the Bible *seriously*, means that we must outgrow the notion that we can take the Bible *literally*.

***Taking the Bible Seriously, Not Literally*** is the theme of our 5-week Lenten Study, which begins on Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup> in Pilgrim Hall. Each Tuesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30, we will explore and discuss various aspects of how the Scriptures were written, different approaches to interpreting them, and how we ourselves - in light of Jesus's life and teachings - understand them. It is important that you and I approach the Biblical texts openly, impartially, and honestly, so that the Still-Speaking Holy One can continue to inspire and refresh our faith and our lives today!

With you on the Journey,  
Pastor Dave

I want to send a sincere "Thank You" to all those who sent cards, gifts and well-wishes to me on my birthday last month. Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated! 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.

### **At Our Mardi Gras Service on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>...**

...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.

**This year's Lenten Season begins March 6<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.

## **FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC**

### **FACILITIES**



The Facilities Ministry has determined that the sanctuary roof is in need of replacement this coming summer. The current roof is over 20 years old and had several minor repairs over the past two years. We have received a bid of \$24,940 for materials and labor.

Additionally, we have added 10% or \$2500 for 'unforeseen expenses'. The sanctuary roof will require 51 squares of shingles plus caps and starters.

The Church Council has unanimously approved a capital fund raiser to cover this expense. The kickoff for 'Fund the Roof Campaign' will begin on Sunday, March 31. A letter with detailed information will be sent to all members of the congregation on March 4.

Please feel free to contact members of the Facilities Ministry if you have any questions.

### **NEWS FROM OCWM**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received. More information and interpretive articles will appear elsewhere in this Pillar and in Sunday bulletins for March 24<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>.



The next hunger meal will be served on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. The menu will be mostaccioli, meatballs and sauce, salad, bread and butter, and cookies for dessert. The salad will be provided by Independence United Methodist Church, who will be partnering with us. We hope that BUCC members and friends will provide the cookies. ►

Two shifts will be needed – one at 2:30 PM to set up and prepare. And one at 4:00 PM to serve and clean up.

There is in the narthex an amazing small tree with the ability to grow hats, mittens, scarves and other warm things. No matter how many times the tree is “harvested” of these things, they continue to reappear. At this writing, four harvestings have been done, and the next growth has started appearing on the tree. It goes without saying that these items are needed in the cold winter weather. More power to the “growers” in our midst.

## OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)



Have you seen the updated ONA bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall? Check it out! You might learn a thing or two. Two things you'll see are March dates that are important in the LGBTQ community:

### Zero Discrimination Day - Friday, March 1st

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual day celebrated by the UN and other international organizations. The day aims to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN. The day was first celebrated on March 1, 2014 and was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé with a major event in Beijing. In February 2017, UNAIDS called on people to 'make some noise around zero discrimination, to speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams.'

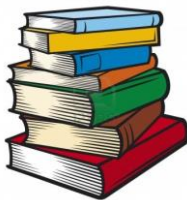
The day is particularly noted by organizations like UNAIDS that combat discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. "HIV related stigma and discrimination is pervasive and exists in almost every part of the world including our Liberia", according to Dr. Ivan F. Camanor, Chairman of the National AIDS Commission of Liberia. The INPD also paid tribute in 2017 to LGBTI people with HIV/AIDS who face discrimination. ►

## **International Transgender Day of Visibility - Sunday March 31st**

International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event occurring on March 31 dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. The holiday was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community. The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31, 2009. It has since been spearheaded by the U.S.-based youth advocacy organization Trans Student Education Resources (Learn More at: [transtudent.org](http://transtudent.org))

## **NOTES AND ASIDES**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**



This month's book discussion will be about *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen* 83-1/4 years old. He founded the Old-But-Not-Dead Club with a group of his friends at the retirement home where he resides. He thrives on stirring up trouble at the home. We will meet in the Parlor at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 4th. All are welcome to join us.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

**MARCH**

Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta



## FLOWERS



"Easter will be here before you know it and the sanctuary will be filled with the colors and smells of spring. This is the first announcement for the dedication of Easter flowers. The Bulletin will have the order sheet available beginning on March 31 through April 14. An order sheet will also be in the April Pillar. Final order will go in on April 15."

## 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.

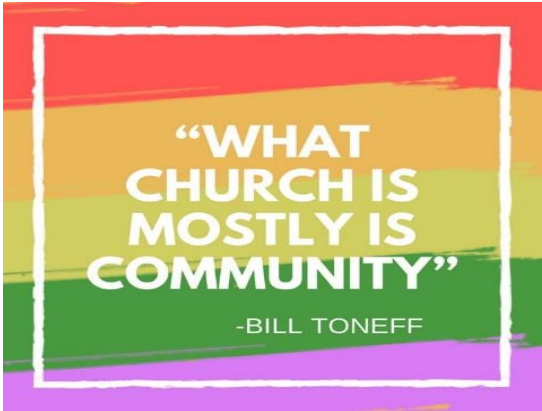


## MUSIC



**SEASONAL CHOIR** - Seasonal choir will begin weekly rehearsals for Holy Week on Thursday March 7 at 7:00 PM. If you enjoy singing with a group but don't have time to commit to regular choir, seasonal choir provides a great opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual preparation for Palm Sunday (April 14), Maundy Thursday (April 18), Good Friday

(April 19), and Easter (April 21.) Listening CDs are provided to help make the learning process easier. High school students are welcome.







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

March 3:	Lucy Brown
March 5:	Dorothy Faust
March 8:	Mindy Harris-Wade
March 9:	Celia Kelly
March 12:	Benjamin Rehling
March 14:	Kate Klonowski
March 16:	Olivia Klonowski
	Spencer Whyte
March 18:	Barbara Gartland
March 20:	Emma Novak
March 22:	Ann Kelley
March 23:	Emily Kelly
March 24:	Kathleen Stewart
March 25:	Joe Wilson
March 28:	Pat Bailey
	Kathy Pastor
March 29:	Mark Rehling
	Bill Witt
March 30:	Susan Snyder
Other March Birthdays:	Tia Began

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

## CALENDAR

### MARCH 2019

**Friday, MARCH 1**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, MARCH 2**

**Sunday, MARCH 3**  
10 am Worship/MARDI  
GRAS  
ONA Offering  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, MARCH 4**  
1 pm Book Discussion

**Tuesday, MARCH 5**  
7 pm Facilities

**Wednesday, MARCH 6**  
**\*Ash Wednesday\***  
6pm Soup Supper  
6:30 pm Services of  
Ashes/ Holy  
Communion

**Thursday, MARCH 7**  
1 pm Bible Study  
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guit.  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7 pm Seasonal Choir/  
Choir

**Friday, MARCH 8**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, MARCH 9**

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

**Monday, MARCH 11**

**Tuesday, MARCH 12**  
7 pm Lenten Study

**Wednesday, MARCH, 13**  
7pm Council

**Thursday, MARCH 14**  
1 pm Bible Study  
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guit.  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7 pm Seasonal Choir/  
Choir

**Friday, MARCH 15**  
**\*PILLAR DEADLINE\***  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, MARCH 16**

**Sunday, MARCH 17**  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, MARCH 18**

**Tuesday, MARCH 19**  
7 pm Lenten Study

**Wednesday, MARCH 20**  
4:30 pm Rec/Dulcimer

**Thursday, MARCH 21**  
1 pm Bible Study  
4:30 pm NO Record/Dul/Guit.  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7 pm Seasonal Choir/  
Choir

**Friday, MARCH 22**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, MARCH 23**

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

**Monday, MARCH 25**

**Tuesday, MARCH 26**  
7 pm Lenten Study

**Wednesday, MARCH 27**  
4:30 pm Rec/Dulcimer

**Thursday, MARCH 28**  
1 pm Bible Study  
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guit.  
5:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7 pm Seasonal Choir/  
Choir

**Friday, MARCH 29**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, MARCH 30**

**Sunday, MARCH 31**  
10 am Worship/OGHS  
OFFERING  
11 am Coffee Hour  
**\*HUNGER MEAL PEARL RD.  
UMC\***

## **PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP**

### **MARCH 3, 2019**

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan  
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel  
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
David Pastor, Cliff Cribbs  
Acolyte: Grace Hunt  
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt  
Sound: Kevin Smith  
Comms Grtr: Valerie Tyler  
Flowers: Sue Stenzel  
Nursery: Kathy Pastor  
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer-Westerberg  
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jan Renovetz  
Servers: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Clean-up: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Snacks: Mardi Gras Potluck  
Snow Hrdr: Doug Fawcett

### **MARCH 10, 2019**

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul  
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz  
Ushers: Sam Koch, Ben Tomlinson  
David Ritchey, Sue Stenzel  
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett  
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler  
Sound: Doug Fawcett  
Comms Grtr: Max Roha  
Flowers: Julie Bernard  
Nursery: Courtni Began  
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski  
Counters: Marge Culver, Jon Thompson  
Servers: Joanne Cook, Betty Kaul  
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Pat Rehm  
Snow Hrdr: Joe Began

### **MARCH 17, 2019**

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly  
Head Usher: Jon Thompson  
Ushers: Diane Gressley, Beth Rehling  
Dan Stewart, Matt Wolbert  
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart  
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski  
Sound: David Pastor ►

Comms Grtr: Betty Kaul  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson  
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling  
Counters: Marge Culver, Jan Renovetz  
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel  
Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs  
Snacks: Kathleen Stewart, Erin Tomlinson  
Snow Hrdr: Joe Wilson

### **MARCH 24, 2019**

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard  
Chad & Bridget Sproul  
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg  
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg  
Sound: Ben Tomlinson  
Comms Grtr: Marge Culver  
Flowers: Betty Gifford  
Nursery: Jonathan Cook  
C.E. Teacher: Gina Cook  
Counters: Jim Duffy & Sue Stenzel  
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford  
Clean-Up: Sue Stenzel, Jan Renovetz  
Snacks: Anne Melfo, Bridget Sproul  
Snow Hrdr: Matt Wolbert

### **MARCH 31, 2019**

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Head Usher: Bob Chandler  
Ushers: Betty Kaul, Darlene Kelly,  
Kathy Smith, Kim Wallis  
Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comms Grtr: Caroline Chandler  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Nursery: Marla Corrado  
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo  
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Dave Bernard  
Servers: Joy Garapic, Julie Bernard  
Clean-up: Jim & Peg Duffy  
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Diane Gressley  
Snow Hrdr: Tim Wallis

# *The Pillar*

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## **23 Public Square**

**Brecksville, Ohio 44141**  
**Moderator:** Jim Duffy  
[jmorganduffy@gmail.com](mailto:jmorganduffy@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 440-526-4364

**Pastor:** Rev. Dave Shackle

440-546-1193

**E-mail:**

[buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net)

[buccpastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccpastor@sbcglobal.net)

**Web:**

[www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org) **Director of Music:**

Dave Debick

**Office Hours:** (Mon – Thur.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[buccmusic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccmusic@sbcglobal.net)

**Financial Secretary:** Joy Garapic

[buccfinance@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccfinance@sbcglobal.net)

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[buccoh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net)

FIRST CLASS

