

The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

May 2019



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...There's No Place Like [our Church] Home...

When Life is good - when the sun is shining, the birds are singing, our loved ones are healthy - it's natural to feel positive and upbeat. But when Life gets rough and problems begin to pile-up, our upbeat attitude can quickly fade-away. Life will always include times of struggle, sadness and sorrow - that's the nature of the *beast*. The *beauty* is, that there are people with whom we can share those sorrows and burdens. For many of you reading this article, the people to whom you turn in times of trouble are members of Brecksville United Church of Christ. This is a remarkable community of faith where we can find support, encouragement and strength to move forward through the difficult times. It's also a place where we can share many of the positive and joyful parts of our lives, knowing that those with whom we share are genuinely happy for us.

In the Divine scheme of things, the Holy One seems determined to work through *people*. In spite of [or perhaps *because of*] our human frailties and failing, you and I are entrusted with the honorable task of standing in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the good times and the bad. Or, as Saint Paul puts it in Romans 12:15, we are to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." It is wonderful when we come together for worship with joy and enthusiasm in our hearts; yet it may be even more wonderful that we can come together when our hearts feel heavy and our lives feel empty or lacking. This is when being surrounded by loving, accepting, and forgiving people may be exactly what we need.

I imagine we've all had times when we've forced ourselves to do something positive, even when our heart wasn't in it. Sometimes that effort falls flat, and we continue in our demoralized state. But more often than not, we find that our willingness to make an effort not only lifts our spirits, but also has a positive "ripple" effect on the people around us. I'll admit that there were Sundays when I was feeling sluggish and out-of-sorts; when my energy and enthusiasm for leading worship was dragging. [Yes, even pastors think about staying in bed on a Sunday morning from time to time!] ►

However, once I entered the church's doors and was warmly greeted by the caring and loving people there, my spirit was immediately lifted. And by the time I'm sitting on the sanctuary steps, listening to and laughing with the kids during our children's sermon, I realize that there's no place on earth I'd rather be.

So whether you're feeling up, or down, or somewhere in-between, I hope you will always feel your connection to the BUCC Family of Faith. I also hope you'll invite others to experience the joy, the support, and the strength that comes from being part of this wonderfully welcoming community!

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.



Two Great Opportunities for Practical Learning:

What are ADVANCE DIRECTIVES?

When an adult is admitted to a hospital they will be asked if they have Advance Directives. We will review the four components of Advance Directives- The Living Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Organ Donation and Guardian Designation. Let's get the care that you desire for yourself!

The presentation will be on Wednesday, May 1 from 7p-8p in Pilgrim Hall.

Discharge Planning Options after a hospital stay

Hospitals are pressured by insurance companies to shorten how long patients stay inside the hospital. We will review the numerous options for care after the hospital stay - from Home Health Care ►

to Skilled Nursing Home care. It is important to know the options and what insurance will cover and not cover.

This is good information for adult children caring for parents and for spouses caring for one another. Let's be proactive! The presentation will be on Tuesday, May 15 from 7p-8p in Pilgrim Hall.

CONGREGATION IN TRANSITION

Dear Fellow Members,

By now, you should have read or heard about Pastor Dave's upcoming retirement.

Over the next few months we will be saying good bye to someone who has been a strong leader and guide for our spiritual journey, as well as a kind friend and steady influence in our growth as a congregation. Sadly, yet hopefully, we must continue that journey with a new Pastor. Some of you have been through this before, but for me and others this is a new concept.

Last week your Council met with Nayiri Karjian, the General Minister of the Living Water Association for Ohio North East UCC. She let us know what we can expect, as a congregation, during this transition.

It will go something like this...

First, we will be selecting an Interim Pastor. The UCC Association will recommend a few candidates and the Council will choose someone who will serve us temporarily for 6 to 9 months or more.

The Interim Pastor will help us:

- ***Learn how to articulate our mission as a congregation, as we introduce ourselves to him or her.***
- ***Continue our current worship, ministries and functions so that we do not have to rush through the selection process.***

- **Assess our strong points and areas of improvement (using fresh pairs of eyes and ears)**

It is important to note that the Interim Pastor will not be a candidate for our opening.

After a few months of adjustment and discernment, we will begin the search process in earnest. We will establish a Search Committee, who will represent our congregation as we:

- ***Prepare a Congregational Profile: who we are and what kind of Pastor we seek.***
- ***Receive and review Pastor Profiles***
- ***Sift through the profiles for likely prospects***
- ***Interview candidates and check references***
- ***Hear a few of them preach.***
- ***Ultimately recommend a final candidate for approval by the Council.***
-

During that process, the Search Committee will attend to all details and report back to the Congregation and the Council. There will be more information on formation of the Search Committee as we get closer. Rest assured, even if you are not on the committee, your opinions will be considered in this process.

The final candidate will then be invited to a “meet-and-greet” weekend where we informally meet him or her. Then on Sunday they will preach to all of us. Only then will a congregational vote be held to “call” our new Pastor.

As this process unfolds, we will share more details and seek your involvement in any crucial decisions. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have during this transition. ►

I am excited to be working with all of you as we take the next steps of our journey as a congregation.

May the Peace of Christ be with us,

Jim Duffy

Moderator

jmorganduffy@gmail.com 216-644-2784

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LAST-MINUTE MART: On Saturday, May 11th, 2019 from 10:00am - 3:00pm, BUCC is hosting our spring LAST-MINUTE MART in Pilgrim Hall, just in time for Mother's Day! This event is very special because



Christian Education is joining forces with OCWM and the Communications & Outreach Ministry to raise funds for this year's Lenten Project to support refugee families in Cleveland. Our students will be selling handmade craft items to raise funds for these families. We are excited to welcome crafters, bakers, and vendors of all kinds (both parishioners and other community members) to join us! You may request a full 8' table for \$25, or half table/card table (~4') for \$15.

Please submit your request for a table to Heidi Spangler at hspanglerads@gmail.com. We are also requesting that each vendor supply one item to donate to our raffle. Concessions will be available! All table, concession profits and raffle proceeds will go to support our Lenten Project. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at keightykay@gmail.com or 216-534-3498.

FACILITIES MINISTRY

The 'Fund the Roof Campaign' kicked-off on March 31. As of 04/10/19 we have contributions totaling \$2900. I would encourage all members of the congregation to prayerfully consider contributing to the campaign.



We are proceeding to convert all lighting in the church to high efficient energy lighting. Our custodian, Sam Alai, will replace the lighting over the next several months. This will help save money as his hourly rates will be less than a contractor's.

The banner room has been cleared of unused items; old financial records have been removed (except those with historical significance) and destroyed; the old organ that resided on the stage in Pilgrim Hall for the last 15 years has been removed (thanks to Dave Bernard); old paint cans have been removed from the furnace room and recycled; and heating control have been repaired int the CE wing.

With April showers comes May Flowers and the Facilities Ministry is looking for BUCC Pilgrims to assist in our annual event. This task encompasses removing any fallen branches, as well as excessive leaf deposits and the spreading of mulch, etc. With enough volunteers this task can easily be completed within 2 hours. Anyone that is "Young at Heart" should sign-up with the Facilities Ministry as soon as possible. We will schedule this event on the first Saturday after Easter Sunday that weather permits, and it will start at 9am. Watch for our announcement.

FINANCE

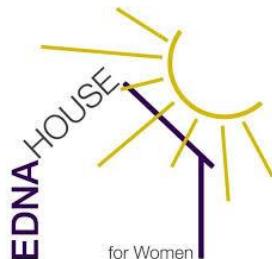


working, ask your employer if they will match your donation.

NEWS FROM OCWM

EDNA HOUSE OFFERING – MAY 12

Brecksville UCC and Our Churches Wider Mission are thrilled to be supporting Edna House in Cleveland, Ohio again this year. Edna House was founded in 2004. Its mission is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live. To date, Edna House has started over 1,200 women on the road to recovery.



The only requirement for admission is the desire to get sober, regardless of their ability to pay. Edna House provides for a woman's basic needs of food, shelter and safety so that she can focus solely on her recovery with the support, direction and guidance of experienced members of the recovering community. Edna House is a faith-based organization and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities they serve. They do not take private insurance nor government funding. ►

Executive Director Jenn Lasky, her staff and residents are extremely grateful for all the help we give them.

In addition to cash donations, items needed and appreciated at this time are postage stamps, gift cards to Office Max (for office supplies), gift cards to Save a Lot, Marcs or Wal Mart which help them with incidental food needs. All of their food comes from donations, but they often need things like butter, pasta sauce, sugar etc. to make a meal from what has been donated.

For more information, go to <https://ednahouse.org>

Please consider supporting Edna House on May 12, when we will hear a continuing testament from Edna House Program Administrator Sarah Pietch. She is a past resident of Edna House and is now six years sober.

*As of this writing, the mitten tree has been retired for the season. It will reappear next fall before the cold weather arrives. Thank you to all who "decorated" the tree for the last few months.

The next offering will be received on Sunday, May 12th, and will be for the benefit of Edna House, a rehabilitation haven for women recovering from alcohol and/or drug dependency. Through this house, women can rebuild their lives and recover their place in society. Further information can be found in this edition of the Pillar.



The next hunger meal will be served on Sunday, May 19th at Pearl Road United Methodist Church, in partnership with Independence United Methodist Church. This partnership has worked well for the last few hunger meals.

The usual menu will be prepared and served, and about 70 persons will be served. The usual sign-up board will appear in the narthex. ►

The efforts of BUCC members and friends to donate food and other items to the hunger centers is ongoing. Toiletries, and personal hygiene items are needed, as food stamps do not cover these items. Thank you to all who have been regularly contributing.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

May

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Holocaust Remembrance Day was established to remember all of the victims of the Nazi era. Upon the rise of Adolf Hitler and the National Socialist German Workers Party (the Nazi Party) in Germany, gay men and, to a lesser extent, lesbians, were two of the numerous groups targeted by the Nazis and were ultimately among Holocaust victims. Beginning in 1933, gay organizations were banned, scholarly books about homosexuality, and sexuality in general were burned, and homosexuals within the Nazi Party itself were murdered.

The Gestapo compiled lists of homosexuals, who were compelled to sexually conform to the "German norm".

Between 1933 and 1945, an estimated 100,000 men were arrested as homosexuals, of whom some 50,000 were officially sentenced.

Most of these men served time in regular prisons, and an estimated 5,000 to 15,000 of those sentenced were incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. It is unclear how many of the 5,000 to 15,000 would die in the camps, but the death rate of homosexuals in concentration camps may have been as high as 60%. Homosexuals in the camps suffered an unusual degree of cruelty by their captors. These estimates include only individuals singled out for their sexual orientation. Many others had already been sent to the camps simply based on their religion without need of other justification. Little study has been done to estimate the number of Jewish homosexuals who died in the camps.

After the war, the treatment of homosexuals in concentration camps went unacknowledged by most countries, and some men were even re-arrested and imprisoned based on evidence found during the Nazi years. ►

It was not until the 1980s that governments began to acknowledge this episode, and not until 2002 that the German government apologized to the gay community. In 2005, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Holocaust which included the persecution of homosexuals.

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

The **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia** is observed on May 17 and aims to coordinate international events that raise awareness of LGBT rights violations and stimulate interest in LGBT rights work worldwide. By 2016, the commemorations had taken place in 132 countries across the globe.

The founders of the International Day Against Homophobia, as it was originally known, established the IDAHO Committee to coordinate grass-roots actions in different countries, to promote the day and to lobby for official recognition on May 17. That date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1990.

Harvey Milk Day

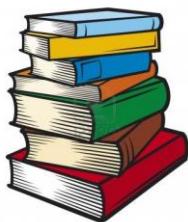
Harvey Milk Day is organized by the Harvey Milk Foundation and celebrated each year on May 22 in memory of Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist assassinated in 1978. Harvey Milk was a prominent gay activist during the twentieth century. He ran for office three times before becoming the first openly gay person elected into California public office, where he acted as a city supervisor. Harvey Milk Day came about as a day to remember and teach about Milk's life and his work to stop the discrimination against gays and lesbians.

In California, Harvey Milk Day is recognized by the state's government as a day of special significance for public schools. The day was established by the California legislature and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2009 after a series of petitions led by gay rights activist Daren I. Ball and in the wake of the award-winning feature film *Milk* retracing Milk's life.

NOTES AND ASIDES

FOOD PANTRY

MAY Infant Formula, Baby Food, and Diapers



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our discussion book for May is "Killers of the Flower Moon" by David Grann. It is a narrative nonfiction book about the struggles of the Osage Indians in Oklahoma. It is also a real eye-opener relating the atrocities perpetrated by the white man against the American Indians. We will meet in the Parlor at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 6th. All are welcome to attend.

MUSIC

FREE CONCERT AT BUCC - On Sunday

May 5 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring **Quartet Riesling** from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The string ensemble will perform works by Haydn, Webern, and Dvořák. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the concert. Plan on joining us on May 5 for an outstanding program of chamber music. Bring a friend!



SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM - During the second part of May, Dave Debick will be recruiting volunteers to sing or play their instruments sometime over the summer months (while our choirs take a well-deserved break.) ►

If you'd like to share your musical gifts with our very-affirming congregation, please let Dave know you're interested so he can sign you up for a Sunday that's convenient for you. High school students are welcome to participate.

BUCC OFFICE Kindly let the Office know if you are leaving/donating items to the Church.

Please call either Pastor Dave, or Jeannette.

We appreciate your thinking of the Church, but we will let you know if there is a need for your items. We have an overabundance of Home Medical Equipment, used Office Supplies, and many other things! **Please call us at 440-526-4364.** Thank you!



SCHEDULING FOR PARTICIPANTS LIST

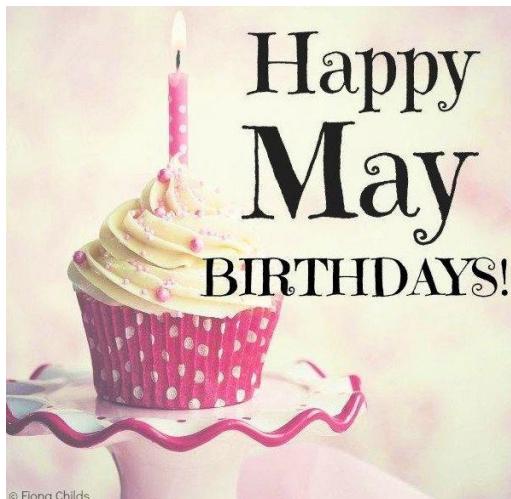


With life being so busy, and Summer quickly approaching, if you know dates that you will be unable to help with Worship Service – on a certain Sunday, or if you will be out of town please get in touch with either:

**Betty Kaul – Lay Reader – thru Counters
440-526-1244**

Sue Stenzel – Servers, Clean-up, Snacks – 440-526-4098

Snacks for Coffee Hour **will not** be scheduled for June & July. If you have anything you would like to share, please just leave in the kitchen and we will see that it is served.



© Fiona Childs

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

May 7:	Lindsey Maier
May 9:	Michele Marcus
May 10:	Fred Pesek
May 12:	Gina Cook
May 18:	Terry Heiman
May 21:	Danyel Esser
	James Tyler
May 26:	David Ritchey
May 30:	Lenore Harris
	Peg Duffy

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



2019 Easter Flower Dedications

Anonymous

In Appreciation of Pastor Dave Shackle

Julie Bernard &
Linda Kriynovich

In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.

Marge Culver

In Memory of Family and Friends lost but never forgotten.

Jane & Cliff
Cribbs

In Memory of Loved Ones.

Myra Logan –
Fabian

In Memory of Wayne Fabian.

Dorothy Faust

In Memory of my Parents, Clinton & Caroline Tallant.

Joy Garapic

In Memory of William Garapic, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather.

Diane Gressley

In Memory of my Parents, Evan & Emma.

Betty Kaul

In Memory of Jim Kaul.

Dassie Matsuoka
& Family

In Memory of James Matsuoka.

Carol Miller &
Pat Rehm

*In Memory of Chase Dornan
For the Unetic Family
For the Miller & Rehm Family*

Phyllis Molnar

In Memory of Edward Molnar & parents George & Bertha Ulsenheimer.

Bettina Ortiz

“In Memory of Betty, Joseph & Timothy Ortiz; David S. King & Dennis M. Rini.”

“In Honor of Daniel King, Rachel King & David Kubic, David Kubic, Grace & Julianne & Jenna Kubic; Stephanie Hough, Lyndsey & Bradley Joseph Hough.

Fred A. Pesek

In Memory of my Wife Connie.

The Eric
Rahnenfuehner
Family

In Memory of Jan Rahnenfuehner.

David Ritchey

Max Roha

In Memory of Mary, David & Lois

Kathy Smith

In Celebration of my Family and my Church Family.

The Stella
Family

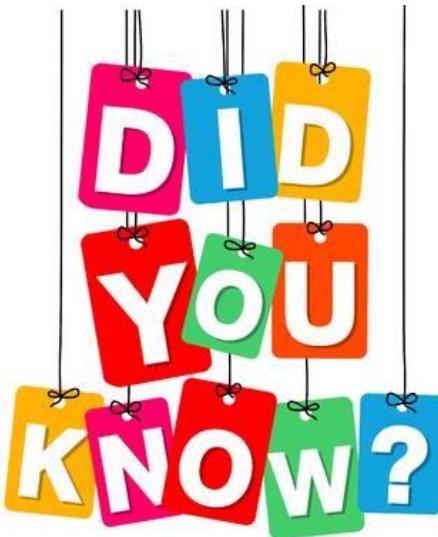
In Memory of the Stella and Truex families - always remembered.

Sherrill & Bill
Witt

*In Memory of Shirley & Arch Duncan
In Honor of Pastor Dave Shackle
In Memory of the Witt & Bishop Families
In Honor of wonderful Church Family at BUCC*

Jill Zedan

In Honor of all the Marvelous people at BUCC.



Did you know that our church bell was recovered from the basement where it had fallen during the tragic 1965 fire that destroyed our sanctuary? In the old church it had been rung before worship by the deacons using a rope in the narthex. It is now rung electrically by the organist. This bell and the one in the Methodist church were tuned to each other so that when they were rung at the same time before worships on Sunday morning, the sounds would be pleasant.

Did you know that the Brecksville Congregational Church (our former name) sold a small piece of land at the northwest corner of its property to the Coates general store for their expansion which included the first Packard hardware store? When the Coates store was eliminated when the westbound Route 82 was changed in 1937 to follow along a widened Highland Drive instead of Stadium drive, we reacquired the exact same piece. By then it was 7 feet wider, reflecting a correction for a surveying error made in the original deed.

CALENDAR

MAY 2019

Wednesday, MAY 1

7 pm Advanced Directives PH

Thursday, MAY 2

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Guit
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, MAY 3

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, MAY 4

Sunday, MAY 5

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
CE Mtg. Lib.
4 pm Oberlin Ensemble
Free concert

Monday, MAY 6

1 pm Book Discussion
7 pm Facilities/Lib.

Tuesday, MAY 7

Wednesday, MAY 8

7pm Council

Thursday, MAY 9

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Guit

5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, MAY 10

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, MAY 11

10am-3pm

Craft Show PH

Sunday, MAY 12

10 am Worship/Edna House
Offering
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, MAY 13

Tuesday, MAY 14

Wednesday, MAY 15
7 pm After Hospital
Care -PH
PILLAR DEADLINE

Thursday, MAY 16

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Guit
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, MAY 17
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, MAY 18

Sunday, MAY 19

10am Worship Service
11 am Coffee Hour
Stewardship -Parlor
***Hunger Meal**
PRUMC*

Monday, MAY 20

Tuesday, MAY 21

Wednesday, MAY 22

Thursday, MAY 23

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Guit
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, MAY 24

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, MAY 25

Sunday, MAY 26
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, MAY 27

***MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE
CLOSED***

Tuesday, MAY 28

Wednesday, May 29

Thursday, May 30
1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Rec/Dul/Guit
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, May 31
OFFICE CLOSED

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MAY 5, 2019

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Cliff Cribbs, Diane Gressley, Kathy Smith, Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Michelina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: David Pastor, Nancy Stella
Servers: Marge Culver, Joanne Cook
Clean-up: Jan Renovetz, Jill Zedan
Snacks: Maureen Stanley, Susan Snyder

MAY 12, 2019

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard, Darlene Kelly, Sam Koch
Acolyte: Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Matt Wolbert, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Pat Rehm

MAY 19, 2019

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Ben Tomlinson
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Cameron Ward
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters: Kathy Pastor & Dave Bernard
Servers: Julie Bernard, Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Jill Zedan

MAY 26, 2019

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor, Beth Rehling, David Ritchey
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Caroline Chandler
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Nursery: Jonathan Cook
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: Marge Culver, Jim Duffy
Servers: Joy Garapic, Betty Kaul
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Marla Corrado, Anne Melfo

The Pillar

is published monthly by the
Brecksville
United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

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