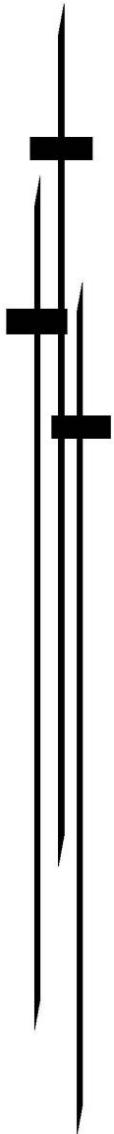


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

July 2019



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

Pastor's Ponderings

...on Parting Ways...

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” - Winnie the Pooh

I realize that for my last *Pillar* article, a quote from Isaiah the Prophet might seem more suitable than a quote from Winnie the Pooh. But hey, it's me, and the Pooh does make an excellent point! We definitely have something special here at Brecksville United Church of Christ; something that makes it hard to say “goodbye”. For the past 15 years, I have been fortunate to be part of one of the most kind and loving, open and generous faith communities imaginable. And while I am hopeful that I can find a church to attend that is as warm and caring as BUCC, I recognize that the relationships I've enjoyed here will never be replicated.

Regardless of where the future takes for me, I will carry with me so many wonderful memories of our time together. And for that, I am truly grateful. I am also grateful to know that this wonderful Family of Faith will continue to flourish, evolve and grow under the leadership of both your Interim Pastor and your eventual long-term Pastor. I am confident about this, in part because I know how well the Call Process can work; and also because I know that any pastor who comes here will find an exceptionally talented, competent and FUN group of people with whom to serve.

People say that the older you get, the faster time seems to pass. That may be true, but it's also true that time flies when you're having fun! I know this because for me, the past 15 years seem to have flown-by so quickly! And while there were certainly some difficult times of challenge, loss and grief, the fact that we were able to walk together through those painful circumstances definitely made a positive difference.

When it comes down to it, our entire lives consist of - and are experienced as - a successive series of moments. I thank you for the many marvelous moments that we have shared together, and for the wonderful memories that I will always carry with me.

Peace & Love,
Pastor Dave



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

MODERATOR

Interim Pastor

Your Congregational Council has discerned who we should call as Interim Pastor:

- His name is Reverend Allan Lane
- He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary
- He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1998.
- He lives in Middleburg Heights with his wife, Kate and three school-age children: Noah, Emily and Adam.
- He was, most recently, the interim pastor at Christ United Church in North Olmsted, which is a federated church, blending a UCC and a Presbyterian congregation.
- He is well schooled and experienced in the role of Interim Pastor.
- After finishing up his two-year assignment, he and his family are taking a much-needed vacation, so ...
- His first Sunday with us will be August 18.

The Spiritual Life Ministry is hard at work finding worship leaders for the 6 intervening Sundays. Several are filled already. We will be fine.

The process of choosing our Interim Pastor was a bit more complicated than “Drawing Lots”, as the Apostles did.

For the record, here is how it was done:

1. **On April 10, 2019, the Council (12 members present) heard from Nayiri Karjian, the General Minister of the Living Water Ohio Northeast UCC Association, that it is the responsibility of the Council to choose the Interim Pastor, as soon as possible.**
2. **On May 1, the Moderator (Jim Duffy) received the profiles of 3 Interim Candidates from Nayiri.**
3. **On May 8, the Council (7 members present) met after our regular monthly meeting to review the Interim Selection Process and receive copies of the Profile for Review. All Council members were invited to consider key qualities of an Interim Minister, good points and concerns of the candidates and come up with questions for Candidates and their references. To protect the confidentiality of the process, in all of our writing, we only referred to the candidates as A, B and C.**
4. **On May 14, after having separately reviewed the candidates on paper, the Council (10 members present) met to share our reviews of the paper profiles. We shared and gathered our key qualities, good points and concerns of each and agreed on questions for the references. These were typed up and distributed by the Chair of Pastor/Parish Relations (Betsey Wilson). We “ranked” the candidates based on our individual reviews. We discerned that we should proceed with two of the candidates, who happened to be local. We passed on an out-of-state candidate.**

5. **On May 20 and May 21, the Council (10 and 8 members present) met to call three references, each for the two candidates. After talking with the references, we discerned that we should meet with both candidates in person. Based on the references, we decided that it was not necessary to hear them preach.**
6. **On May 29, the Council (9 members present) met to prepare the interview questions. We knew it was important for fairness to ask both candidates the same questions. These were typed up and distributed by the Chair of Pastor/Parish Relations (Betsey Wilson). It was also agreed that we would make our decision after meeting with the second candidate.**
7. **The Council collaborated via email and a short meeting on June 2 on a final version of the Interview outline.**
8. **On June 3, the Council (11 members present) interviewed candidate A.**
9. **On June 4, the Council (10 members present) interviewed candidate B. Following a brief pause, as we walked the candidate to his car, the council invited the Spirit to guide our choice. We had a brief discussion. We concluded that while both candidates were excellent and would do very well for us, one was much stronger and resonated well with our needs and hopes. It was moved and seconded to call Candidate B. All present (9 of whom had interviewed both candidates) voted unanimously to call Alan Lane.**
10. **On June 5, the Moderator (Jim Duffy) communicated to Allan Lane our desire to call him. He was very grateful. He gave his availability and some other details.**
11. **The Moderator (Jim Duffy), the Treasurer/Finance Chair (Wes Novak) and the Pastor/Parish Relations Chair (Betsey Wilson) collaborated via phone and email on the Interim Call Agreement. It was based on a template and followed compensation guidelines provided by the UCC Association.**

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- 12. On June 12, the Moderator (Jim Duffy) presented Allan Lane with the call agreement for his review, which he formally accepted on June 13.**

All through this process your Council asked to be directed by our Still Speaking God to guide us in our discernment.

To repeat this important note:

- **We know and Allan Lane agrees that he will not and cannot be a candidate for our permanent Pastor.**
- **As we choose who that person will be, Allan Lane will minister to us and assist us during the 6, 9, 12 or more months of the search.**

We will take a few months to adjust to our Interim Pastor before we call together a Search Committee. The Leadership Development Ministry (Bridget Sproul, Julie Bernard co-chairs) will work with the Moderator (Jim Duffy) to determine how best to form the Search Committee. Please let us know if you are interested in serving.

As a congregation, we can now go forward saying “goodbye” and “thank you” to Pastor Dave, while confidently knowing what will happen next...

Thank you to the Council for all their work on this process.

FINANCE



During the first half of 2019, the following donations were sent to the Living Water Association - the new name of the Western Reserve Association: One Great Hour of Sharing \$720 and Strengthen the Church \$470

These amounts were in addition to money sent to Edna House in the amount of \$1,507. Our extremely generous

congregation also gave \$23,180. for the new roof over the Christian Education wing. All this is above and beyond weekly collections. We are a strong and giving church!

FACILITIES MINISTRY

The 'Fund the Roof Campaign' has grown to \$24,280 as of 06/12/19. We are extremely fortunate to have a generous congregation that has stepped up to make this project possible. A big 'thank you' and blessing to all who have contributed.



We are close to the end of our fund raiser; we are very near the "finish-line." Please help us meet our goal!

We are proceeding on the project to convert all lighting in the church to high efficient energy lighting. We are checking on several possibilities on parts and installation prices in the hope reducing the cost lighting over the next several months.

NEWS FROM OCWM



SARA and BUCC have had a relationship back to 1998. SARA is not a person, but is an acronym meaning Sharing America's Resources Abroad. Reverend Stephen Szilagyi, the founder of SARA, an outreach of the Ohio Conference of the UCC, preached a sermon at BUCC about

the work of SARA in the Ukraine, Hungary, and El Salvador. BUCC responded to the need outlined in his sermon. Through this ecumenical effort, medical supplies, over the counter medicines, clothing, money, and other items were provided to people with little access to these items.

Over the years BUCC members donated money to provide two washing machines for the children's hospital in Mukachevo, Ukraine, and for use in seven or eight orphanages, medical clinics, children's hospitals and other institutions. Much of the funds were generated by redeeming aluminum cans donated by BUCC members and friends.

Sadly, recently Reverend Szilagyi died. The connection between SARA and BUCC had been lost when he retired some years ago. Therefore, the channel for the can funds has been lost.

At the last Council meeting, it was moved and passed that the collection of aluminum cans be ceased, and the balance of money in the BUCC SARA account be sent to the Ohio Conference of the BUCC in honor and in memory of Reverend Szilagyi. The balance totals just over \$1000.00.

The magic collection barrel will no longer appear in the lower commons. The worldwide recycling of aluminum and other metals has changed since the start of this effort, and a redemption could not be found nearby.

******It is recommended that BUCC members put their aluminum recyclables with their other recyclables in their respective municipal recycling areas. ******

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

July

International Non-Binary People's Day

International Non-Binary People's Day is July 14th. The date was chosen as it is halfway between International Men's Day (November 19th – and yes, there really is such a day!) and International Women's Day (March 8th). It is aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world. Several cultures around the world historically celebrate non-binary or third gender communities with others more recently introducing legal protections and recognition of such identities as was the case in Australia which introduced additional passport markers (X instead of F or M) for non-binary people. Canada has also started offering its citizens the opportunity to obtain a non-binary birth certificate.

The day marks an opportunity to educate members on non-binary identities and the importance of respecting non-binary members and the use of pronouns and language to avoid unnecessarily excluding non-binary members.

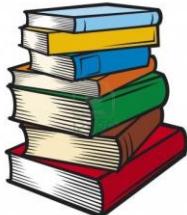
NOTES AND ASIDES

FOOD PANTRY

July Toothpaste, Shampoo, and
Toilet Paper



BOOK DISCUSSION



Monday, July 1 there will be a sharing of books that members have enjoyed and a swapping of copies members no longer need.

MESSAGES FROM BUCC OFFICE

I currently have no dates for meetings/gatherings for the month of July on the Office Calendar. If your Ministry or group is planning to meet, please put it on the main calendar in the Office. Thank you.



Kindly let the Office know if you are leaving/donating items to the Church. Please call Jeannette. We appreciate your thinking of the Church, but we will let you know if there is a need for your items. **Please call me at 440-526-4364.** Thank you!

OFFICE UPDATE:

I will be out of the Office from July 11 – July 15, returning July 16.

I will also be out of the Office the week of August 19 – 23.

There will be someone here to help you with anything you need.

Thanks, Jeannette

****Please take a moment to tidy up your area in the Sanctuary – return books back to holders, straighten the flyers, etc. Your help is greatly appreciated.****

Special Memories of Pastor Dave





***Thank you for Everything Pastor Dave
We Wish You a Happy Retirement!***



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

July 3:	Andrew Lightbody
July 4:	Pat Rehm
July 11:	Dottie Farwell
July 12:	Ryan Stewart
July 13:	Mary D'Agostino
July 14:	Jim Demko
	Evie Novak
July 15:	Dorie Gabor
July 21:	Joshua Tyler Anderson
	Nora Smith-Gagliano
July 22:	Mira Corrado
July 25:	Cindy Burton
July 26:	Carol VanDuyne
July 27:	Anne Melfo
Other July Birthdays	Joe Began

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

CALENDAR

JULY 2019

Monday, JULY 1 1 pm Book Discussion 7 pm Facilities/Lib.	Saturday, JULY 13	Friday, JULY 26 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Tuesday, JULY 2	Sunday, JULY 14 10am Worship Service 11 am Coffee Hour	Saturday, JULY 27
Wednesday, JULY 3	Monday, JULY 15 *PILLAR DEADLINE*	Sunday, JULY 28 10am Worship Service 11 am coffee Hour
Thursday, JULY 4 <i>Happy 4th of July!</i> *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tuesday, JULY 16	Monday, July 29
Friday, JULY 5 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Wednesday, JULY 17	Tuesday, July 30
Saturday, JULY 6	Thursday, JULY 18 1 pm Bible Study	Wednesday, July 31
Sunday, JULY 7 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour 11am Spiritual Life	Friday, JULY 19 *OFFICE CLOSED*	
Monday, JULY 8 7 pm Facilities/Lib.	Saturday, JULY 20	
Tuesday, JULY 9	Sunday, JULY 21 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour	
Wednesday, JULY 10 7pm Council	Monday, JULY 22	
Thursday, JULY 11 1 pm Bible Study	Tuesday, JULY 23	
Friday, JULY 12 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Wednesday, JULY 24	
	Thursday, JULY 25 1 pm Bible Study 7 pm Choir	

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JULY 7, 2019

Lay Reader: Dot Bailey
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Beth Rehling, David Ritchey, Kim Wallis, Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte: Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo Fawcett
Counters: Stu Bailey, Nancy Stella
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Clean-up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel

JULY 21, 2019

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor, Dave & Julie Bernard
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Erin Tolinson
C.E Teacher: Counters: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy

JULY 14, 2019

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Ben Tomlinson Jon Thompson, Sam Koch, Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Cameron Ward
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Gina Cook
Counters: Dave Bernard, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Marge Culver, Joanne Cook
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul

JULY 28, 2019

Lay Reader: Bettina Ortiz
Head Usher: Dot Bailey
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler, Diane Gressley, Betty Kaul
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Amelia Taylor
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Valerie Taylor
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E. Teacher: Counters: David Pastor, Matt Wolbert
Servers: Joy Garapic, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs

*If you need to make a schedule change, please call Betty Kaul 440-526-1244 or Sue Stenzel at 440-526-4098

The Pillar

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