

The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

November 2019



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

One of the tasks of the UCC History and Polity course that I took was to write up a short summary of what we appreciate about the United Church of Christ. I think it's great to learn about who we are, so let me share some highlights with you.

1. An Emphasis on Unity - The United Church of Christ takes Jesus' prayer in John 17 seriously: "that all may be one." This is the only prayer that Jesus made for the church, and we have been woefully bad at fulfilling it. The UCC takes Jesus' prayer and runs with it. The two churches that united to form the UCC in 1957, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and the Congregational Christian Churches, were themselves the result of two earlier unions, so the UCC talks about the four streams of our tradition, Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational, Christian Churches. I greatly admire the UCC drive to find a way to live together amidst theological and institutional diversity.
2. A Celebration of Diversity - The UCC didn't just find a way to live together in uniting, it found a way to celebrate diversity. Theologically, this works out to an emphasis on each member and each church being able to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as they hear it. Not only are members expected to give space for others who hear a different voice, but they are encouraged, within the bounds of the broadest Christian tradition, to support others in their alternative path. This is perhaps not surprising since the church has been composed of people of radically different understandings of church: Synods in control for the Evangelical & Reformed stream, and individual congregations making decisions for the Congregational Christian stream. The churches are held together by the idea of covenant, that is, a commitment to one another no matter what.
3. A strong Social Justice Component - The founding UCC churches can trace their social justice roots into the deep past. Congregational churches protested against slavery, and later sent teachers into the Deep South to teach newly freed African Americans, establishing schools and colleges. The UCC has stood out in its commitment to justice for African Americans, for gays and lesbians, and equality for women. ►

The church insists that all people be treated with equal dignity. It's strong commitment to the proposition that Christ is for everyone, and that everyone is welcome in UCC churches has made this church a moral force to be reckoned with. Brecksville UCC shares in this commitment to justice and a warm welcome for all.

Those are just a few of the most outstanding traits of the United Church of Christ. I'm proud of our heritage, and you should be, too!

If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Pastor Allan Lane at the church office [440-526-4364] or call him on his cell at [513-417-1537] Please leave a message if he doesn't answer as he may be driving. He will be glad to meet with you



From the Moderator:

Congregation in Transition

Now that we have called Pastor Allan Lane as our Interim Minister, the next phase of our transition will be to articulate and confirm a congregational mission and vision. This set of statements will reflect who we are, now, and how we hope to grow in our relationship to God, each other and our world. Stay tuned in the coming months for how you can give your input as we capture and approve our vision.

Once we firmly establish this statement of who we are, where we are going, and ways that we will journey there, we can search for a permanent Pastor who is willing and able to lead us along the way.



NOTE FROM COUNCIL:

On Wednesday, October 16th, nine members of your BUCC Council and Pastor Allen met with one of the developers who is interested in making a bid to develop the Central School property next door to the church. One of the plans they are proposing would include the church property as well. This meeting was to share information only. No offers were made to purchase our property, but our property is the only non-city-owned parcel, beyond Central School, being considered for development. A timeline for how these plans might move forward is not available at this time, but it will likely be more than a year into the future. Our moderator, Jim Duffy, will continue to attend all public meetings of the Resident Recommendation Committee. Other members of the congregation are encouraged to attend as well. Any information that is gleaned will be shared with the entire church community. Please remember that any decisions about our property must be made with the consent of the Congregation.

Members who are Brecksville residents are encouraged to sign up to take a survey at this link: <http://www.brecksville.oh.us/index.html> to weigh in on the issue. Please feel free to contact Jim or Heidi if you have any questions or concerns.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES



1. The roof has been replaced and all gutters have been cleaned. This project came in slightly under budget
2. All lights in Pilgrim Hall have been replaced with high efficiency LED lights.
3. We have two new beautiful chairs in the upper commons.
4. The air conditioning units grated covers have been spray painted.

5. The outdoor light fixture over the front doors has been repaired but is need of being replaced.
6. Fall cleanup will be handled by our yard maintenance company. We will request members of the congregation to assist with the spring cleanup.
7. The microphone cord for the lectern has been replaced.
8. Per a request from the kitchen crew, the large garbage can has been replaced one that gives more room for those working in the kitchen.
9. We are preparing a new mission statement for the Facilities Ministry that more clearly discerns the function of this ministry.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Leadership Development Ministry hopes all the members have been considering how they are called to use their gifts and talents at BUCC. All ministries welcome new members and new ideas. Do you enjoy throwing parties and potlucks? Join the Membership Ministry. Do you have skills with technology? Join Communications & Outreach. Good with money management? Finance is the ministry for you! Does spending time with children or teaching about Christ excite you? The Christian Education ministry needs you! Do you care about our planet and our resources, including our monetary resources? The Stewardship Ministry is a good fit for you! Let us know that you are willing, and we will find a place for you to share your gifts and talents!



A special ministry will be formed this coming year. We are enjoying the energy and ideas that Pastor Allan has brought to BUCC. However, he is our Interim Pastor. He is here temporarily until we get a permanent pastor. To that end, we need to assemble a Search Committee.

We are looking for approximately 7 members who are willing to give lots of time and dedication to this very important effort. We need a broad representation of members, those who are different ages, have different interests and experiences, and folks who have been members for different lengths of time. If you feel called to participate in the search process, please write a brief note telling the Leadership Development Ministry why you want to be considered for the Search Committee and how you feel you can help in this endeavor. Please do this by mid-November.

Thank you to all the members who have served as officers and ministry members in the past years. Know that you are appreciated. It is your continued giving of yourselves that will keep this church moving forward through this time of transition. Newer members or members who haven't served in the past, please join in the growth and bright future of Brecksville United Church of Christ.

MEMBERSHIP & STEWARDSHIP



Thanksgiving meal and Pledge Day - The Membership and Stewardship committees invite you to our annual Thanksgiving dinner! The meal will take place after service on Sunday, November 17th. Turkey, gravy, potatoes, and dinner rolls will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And don't forget those Pledge cards!

NEWS FROM OCWM

Thank you all for your support of BUCC outreach efforts during this year. It has been amazing.

The mitten tree has sprouted in the narthex again, just waiting to be "decorated" with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to be delivered



to those who will need them in the cold weather again. They are delivered to hunger centers when the donated food items are delivered to hunger centers.

The next hunger meal will be served at Iglesia Emmanuel on Sunday, December first. About 30 to 50 meals are anticipated to be prepared and served. The menu will be the usual mostaccioli, salad, and cookies for dessert. Look for the sign-up board in the narthex if you are interested in participating.

The next designated offering will be the Christmas Offering, to be received on Sunday, December 22nd. The collection will be used to provide gifts and pension supplementation for clergy and lay employees at all stages in their lives and ministries. Health premium and emergency grants are also included. These funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these “veterans of the cross”.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

November

Intersex Day of Remembrance

Intersex Day of Remembrance is observed on November 8th and aims to draw attention to the issues faced by members of the intersex community. Sex characteristics of intersex people do not allow to distinctly identify them as male or female.



International Stand Up to Bullying Day

International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special semi-annual event in which participants sign and wear a pink “pledge shirt” to take a visible, public stance against bullying. The event takes place in schools, workplaces, and organizations in 25 countries around the globe on the third Friday of November to coincide with Anti-bullying week, and then again on the last Friday of February. International STAND UP to Bullying Day is a special semi-annual event in which participants sign and wear a pink “pledge shirt” to take a visible, public stance against bullying. ►

The first International STAND UP to Bullying Day took place in February 2008. 236 schools, workplaces and organizations representing more than 125,000 students and staff registered to take a STAND against Bullying by signing and wearing a special pink pledge shirt.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance takes place on November 20, 2019. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, or the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender graphic designer, columnist, and activist, to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston, Massachusetts. Since its inception, TDoR has been held annually on 20 November, and has slowly evolved from the web-based project started by Smith into an international day of action. Typically, a TDoR memorial includes a reading of the names of those who lost their lives during the previous year and may include other actions, such as candlelight vigils, art shows, food drives, film screenings, marches, among others. The Transgender Day of Remembrance is the culmination of Transgender Awareness Week.

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 6:45 pm -8:30 pm. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415



STEWARSHIP 2019

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me. – John 14:6

Our annual **Stewardship 2019** is underway. Stewardship Sunday will be November 17. This year our theme is **I am the way...** and the scripture from John 14:6 is the focus of reflection. Please take a few moments to carefully consider what stewardship means to you and to our broader church family. We are all stewards, which means that you help manage resources. As stewards of God, we try to manage our resources so that they serve God's purposes to make the church and the world more like the communities God wants them to be.



What is stewardship? We share a particular way of being Christian and being church. We are not alone. The early Christian movement was known internally as well as to its persecutors as the **Way** (Acts 9). The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing, and a way of living.

- The *wisdom* tradition of the faith often spoke of the Way. God watches over the way of the righteous (Psalm 1:6)
- The *prophetic* tradition of the faith also refers to faith as a Way. Prepare the way of our God, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40).
- Jesus refers to himself and his commitment to a cruciform Way of life as "I am the way.." (John 14:6).
- Paul advising the early church in Corinth being torn asunder with division counsels that in the way of love, he would show them a more excellent way. (I Corinthians 12:31)

You are invited to reflect on this shared way and how we individually and collectively are stewards of this way. Stewarding your faith community by pledging support allows the church to plan the way forward. ►

And this year, be reminded that giving is a way to participate in a church community striving to live in such a way that the reign of God becomes real in each of us and is extended through us.

Note that by the end of October, you should receive a letter from our moderator that includes a pledge card. On Sunday November 17, prior to our annual Thanksgiving dinner, we will collect the pledge cards during the worship service.

Weekly Giving Percentages (Rounded to the Nearest Dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	—	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

NOTES AND ASIDES

FOOD PANTRY

NOVEMBER - Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, etc.



THE MITTEN TREE is now in the narthex, awaiting “decorations” of hats, mittens, scarves, etc. for delivery to those who will need them in the cold weather ahead. Last year, the tree filled up and was emptied at least three times. Let’s see if we can come up with at least four “fill-ups” this year.



MOVING



FROM JOANNE COOK - As I will be leaving BUCC and moving to FL , I am sending this to update my address for anyone who is interested. I will be living at: **4932 Sandy Glen Way, Wimauma, FL 33598**

My telephone number and email address will remain the same (as in the Directory). I wish to thank my BUCC family for their many years of love, support, and friendship not just to me, but to Skip as well. Although I am so happy about joining my daughter and son-in-law in Florida on

this new adventure, I will very much miss my friends in Brecksville.
Joanne Cook

MUSIC

FREE CONCERT - On Sunday November 3 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring cellist Adam Willson and pianist Charlotte Hill from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. They will perform works by Prokofiev, Schumann and J. S. Bach. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the concert. Plan on joining us Nov. 3 for an outstanding program of chamber music.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - On Sunday December 22 at our regular 10 AM service, BUCC's choir and seasonal choir will present the 2019 Christmas cantata. ►



Titled *Emmanuel--God with Us!* the work features traditional and contemporary music telling the ancient story of Christ's miraculous birth among us. The piece will be accompanied by flutes, French horn, trumpets, violin, percussion and narrators. Plan on joining us for this annual BUCC event. Bring a friend!

MESSAGES FROM BUCC OFFICE

A Call To Skilled Talent! I am looking for someone who is proficient in computers, and able to be my backup for vacation time, sick time, etc. I will teach you the Bulletin, and other important weekly tasks. If you are interested, please give me a call at the Office at 440-526-4364.



All Members, and Ministries, kindly write your upcoming meetings, events, or plans on the main *Church Calendar in the Office*.

Also, please send me an email when you would like correspondence to be published in our Bulletin, Pillar, or for an email blast. buccoh@sbcglobal.net Thank you!!! Jeannette

Wishing you all a Very Happy Thanksgiving! Jeannette





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

November 2:	Miriam Rosewicz
November 3:	Mike Westerberg
	Eliza Jane Kolar
	Dassie Matsuoka
	Kara Rees
	Evelyn Duffy
November 9:	Susan Stenzel
	Amelia Tyler
November 13:	Dan Maier
November 14:	Joe Gagliano
November 17:	Caroline Chandler
	Andrew Wilson
November 19:	Travis Anderson
November 22:	Tim Wallis
November 23:	Wes Novak
November 28:	Kate Lane

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

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2019

Friday, NOVEMBER 1 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tuesday, NOVEMBER 12	Friday, NOVEMBER 22 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Sat, NOVEMBER 2	Wed., NOVEMBER 13 7:15 pm Council	Sat., NOVEMBER, 23
Sunday, NOVEMBER 3 10am Worship Service 11 am Coffee Hour 11am Spiritual Life 11 am Membership 4pm Free Concert Cello/Piano Oberlin	Thurs., NOVEMBER 14 1 pm Bible Study 4:30-5 pm Recorder/ Dulcimer/Guitar 5:30-6:15 pm Joyful Noise 7pm Seasonal Choir 8pm Choir	Sunday, NOVEMBER, 24 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Hour
Monday, NOVEMBER 4 1 pm Book Discussion 7 pm Facilities/Lib.	Friday, NOVEMBER 15 *PILLAR DEADLINE* *OFFICE CLOSED*	Monday, NOVEMBER 25
Tuesday, NOVEMBER 5	Sat., NOVEMBER 16	Tuesday, NOVEMBER 26
Wed., NOVEMBER 6	Sunday, NOVEMBER 17 10 am Worship 11 am Thanksgiving Dinner	Wed., NOVEMBER., 27
Thurs., NOVEMBER 7 1 pm Bible Study 4:30-5 pm Recorder/ Dulcimer/Guitar 5:30-6:15 pm Joyful Noise 7pm Seasonal Choir 8pm Choir	Monday, NOVEMBER 18	Thurs., NOVEMBER, 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING *OFFICE CLOSED*
Friday, NOVEMBER 8 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Tuesday, NOVEMBER 19	Sat., NOVEMBER 30
Sat., NOVEMBER 9	Wed., NOVEMBER 20	
Sunday, NOVEMBER 10 10 am Worship Service 11 am Coffee Hour	Thurs., NOVEMBER 21 1 pm Bible Study 4:30-5 pm NO Recorder/ Dulcimer/Guitar 5:30-6:15 pm Joyful Noise 7pm Seasonal Choir 8pm Choir	
Monday, NOVEMBER 11		

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 3, 2019 – DAYLIGHT**SAVINGS TIME!**

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Jill Zedan, Dan Stewart
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Marla Corrado
Counters: Nancy Stella, David
Pastor
Servers: Joy Garapic, Cliff Stenzel
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Marla
Corrado
Clean-up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Diane Gressley, David
Ritchey, David & Kathy
Pastor
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: Jim Duffy, Matt Wolbert
Servers: Joy Garapic, Julie
Bernard
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Beth
Rehling
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler

NOVEMBER 17, 2019 – STEWARDSHIP**SUNDAY- THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Betsey & Joe Wilson
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg,
Michelina Fawcett
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: HARVEST
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Dave
Bernard
Servers: Thanksgiving Potluck
Snacks: Thanksgiving Potluck
Clean-Up: Thanksgiving Potluck

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Sam Koch, Beth Rehling,
Kim Wallis, Matt Wolbert
Joshua Anderson
Acolyte: Peter Kucmins
Peace Candle: David Pastor
Sound: Caroline Chandler
Comns Grtr: HARVEST
Flowers: Courtney Began
Nursery: Beth Rehling
C.E. Teacher: Marge Culver, Sue
Counters: Stenzel
Servers: Leroy & Kathy Ford
Snacks: Pat Rehm, Carol Miller
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy

The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

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