

The *Pillar*
Brecksville United Church of Christ

January 2020



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Altruistic Evil?

There is no doubt that we live in an age of violence: bombings in Jakarta, gunfire in Istanbul, massacres in Paris, church shootings in South Carolina, Planned Parenthood bombing in Colorado, militant takeovers in Oregon, co-worker murders in San Bernardino.

Wherever we look there is sudden and unexpected violence and threats of violence on behalf of some cause, often religious, where some group seeks to get its way by random acts of astonishing violence in order to terrorize others into doing what they want.

In his wonderful book, *Not In God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence*, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks tries to understand how people can behave so wickedly. He develops the idea of *altruistic evil*: the evil that people commit against women, children, the aged, random innocents, in order to further some cause they deem ultimately good, be that fundamentalist Islam, Israeli settler extremism, radical anti-government ideas, anti-abortion Christianity, or even virulent racism.

In each case, people commit deeds of exceptional evil because they think it will bring about a better world. That's why Sacks calls it *altruistic evil*: they aren't necessarily doing it for themselves, but for the betterment of some because they see as bigger than themselves.

Any cause can act as a kind of god, inspiring violence, but Sacks is primarily concerned with evil done in the name of the God of Abraham, that is, the God of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Sacks sees religious violence in the Abrahamic faiths as arising from a misreading of sacred Scripture. He writes, "Abraham himself sought to be a blessing to others regardless of their faith. That idea, ignored for centuries, remains the simplest definition of Abrahamic faith. It is not our task to conquer or convert the world, or enforce uniformity of belief. It is our task to be a blessing to the world. ... To invoke God to justify violence against the innocent is not an act of sanctity but of sacrilege."

In an age of terror, even in the midst of our fear and anger, it remains the task of God's people to be a blessing to the world. We must never let the violence and hatred of *others* infect us with violence and hatred for *others*. We must be on our guard against the siren song of *altruistic evil*, where we condone violence we would condemn in others because our cause seems so good. Our task is far different: it is to let the love of God flow through us to bless the world, and to *overcome evil with good* (Romans 12:21).

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 MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE



COLLECTION....BUCC appreciates your generosity in contributions on Sunday to help out in many ways. The members who do the counting following worship would ask that you take a minute when filling out the envelope (either the colored ones you received at the beginning of the year or the white ones found in the pew pockets) to make sure your **NAME, the AMOUNT of contribution and CHECK #** are posted on

the front of the envelope. It makes it much easier for the counters to post this information for the financial secretary. It will only take a minute of your time and may give the counters time enough to get downstairs to partake in coffee hour with all of you. Thank you

NEWS FROM OCWM

The amazing mitten tree has filled up a second time. At this writing, the hats, mittens and scarves have been delivered to a hunger center to be distributed with food items for families. This is a wonderful way to provide an unexpected Christmas gift for families needing food and other items.



The next offering will be received on March 22nd to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing. Look for more interpretive information in Pillars and in Sunday bulletins between then and now.

The next hunger meal will be served at Pearl Road United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 16th. The sign-up board will appear at the appropriate time in the narthex. There will be spaces for people to indicate their interest in joining in the effort. The directions to the church will be posted. This church also will accept donations of gently used clothing for distribution when families come for the meal. If anyone has clothing items, they can bring them and place them near the mitten tree. OCWM members will place them where they will reach the meal location.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)



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

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Our Member Betty Kaul has recently been moved to Danbury Assisted Living in Broadview Heights.

If you would like to send a card, please feel free to utilize our cards that we offer in The Commons area. Her new Address is:

Betty Kaul
9500 Broadview Rd.
Room 254
Broadview Hts., OH 44147
440-262-2675 (no answering machine)



NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION



Our next book for discussion is *Lost Roses* by Martha Hall Kelly. It is inspired by actual events - the stories of three women during World War II that reveal the bravery, cruelty and cowardice of those days. It is inspired by true events. We previously enjoyed reading and discussing this author's *Lilac Girls*. We will meet in the Parlor on Monday, January 6th at 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

FOOD PANTRY

JANUARY - Canned Fruit & Vegetables





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.

BUCC Trivia



Did you know that the original church building was built without a basement? When a basement was added in the early 1900's to provide Sunday school space, it was necessary to install an extensive series of pipe-pillars to support all of the existing load points. These provided places for hanging curtains to make classrooms but also a maze of obstacles used by the students as a play area. It is said that our newsletter's name is a remnant of these pillars of our old church building.



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

January 7:	Maxwell Hunt Sue Maier
January 12:	Zachary Kolar
January 18:	Jan Renovetz
January 22:	Dorothy Cook
January 30:	Jonathan Cook
January 31:	Cliff Cribbs

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

2019 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



Anonymous

In Honor of the Lost but Not Forgotten.

Julie Bernard &
Linda Kriynovich

*In Memory of Bernard & Gorenc Family Members
Always in our Hearts.*

Marjorie Culver

*In Memory of Family & Friends – lost but never
forgotten!*

Dorie Gabor

In Memory of my Husband, Steven E. Gabor.

Joy Garapic

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

Harris, Wade &
Anderson Families

In Memory of Bill Harris who is missed every day.

Betty Kaul

In Memory of Jim and David Kaul, and for both parents.

Ed Lusk

In Loving Memory of Greg Lusk and Milly Lusk.

Carol Miller &
Pat Rehm

*For the Rob Miller Family
For the Kathleen Unetic and Fmaily
In Memory of Jarrod Kapp
In Memory of Chase Dorman*

Phyllis Molnar

*In Honor of my Husband Edward Molnar, and Parents
George & Bertha Ulsenheimer*

Fred Pesek

In Memory of my Beloved Wife, Constance B. Pesek.

Ed & June
Puwal

*In Memory of Puwal & Waglen family – parents who are
with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

The
Rahnenfuehrer
Family

In Memory of Jan Rahnenfuehrer.

Max Roha

In Loving Memory of Mary, David & Lois.

Kathy Smith

In Honor of Suzanne & Raegan.

The Stella
Family

*In Memory of Fathers, Mothers, Grandparents who are
no longer with us, but are never forgotten
In Special Remembrance for Ginny Koch – our Sister &
Aunt who left us this year.*

Jill Zedan

*In Honor of all my friends and family who have “gone
before.”*

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2020

Wed., JANUARY 1
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thurs., JANUARY 2
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, JANUARY 3
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JANUARY 4

Sunday, JANUARY 5
10 am Worship Service
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JANUARY 6
1 pm Book Discussion

Tuesday, JANUARY 7
7:15 pm Council Book
Discussion

Wed., JANUARY 8

Thurs., JANUARY 9
1 pm Bible Study
Piano Lesson Resume
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, JANUARY 10
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JANUARY 11

Sunday, JANUARY 12
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JANUARY 13

Tuesday, JANUARY 14

Wed., JANUARY 15
7:15 pm Council
PILLAR DEADLINE

Thurs., JANUARY 16
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, JANUARY 17
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JANUARY, 18

Sunday, JANUARY, 19
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JANUARY 20

Tuesday, JANUARY 21

Wed., JANUARY 22

Thurs., JANUARY 23
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, JANUARY 24
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JANUARY 25

Sunday, JANUARY 26
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JANUARY 27

Tuesday, JANUARY 28

Wed., JANUARY 29

Thurs., JANUARY 30
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, JANUARY 31
OFFICE CLOSED

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JANUARY 5, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Dave & Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: **SEE BULLETIN**
Counters: Dave Bernard
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Maureen Stanley & Marla Corrado
Clean-up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder: Joe Wilson

JANUARY 12, 2020

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Kathy & Dave Pastor
Kim Wallis, Dan Stewart
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: **SEE BULLETIN**
Counters: Matt Wolbert, Marge Culver
Servers: Linda Kriynovich, Julie Bernard
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Ben Rehling
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel

JANUARY 19 2020

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Ben Davis, Nora Gagliano
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Gabriella Gagliano
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: **SEE BULLETIN**
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jon Thompson
Servers: Robin Coyer-Westerberg, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Erin Tomlinson
Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snow Herder: Joe Began

JANUARY 26, 2020

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Michaelina Fawcett,
CarrieCoyer-Westerberg,
Matt Wolbert, Heidi Spangler
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Cameron Ward
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E. Teacher: **SEE BULLETIN**
Counters: Bruce McCain, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Pat Rehm, Heidi Spangler
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snow Herder: Doug Fawcett

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

