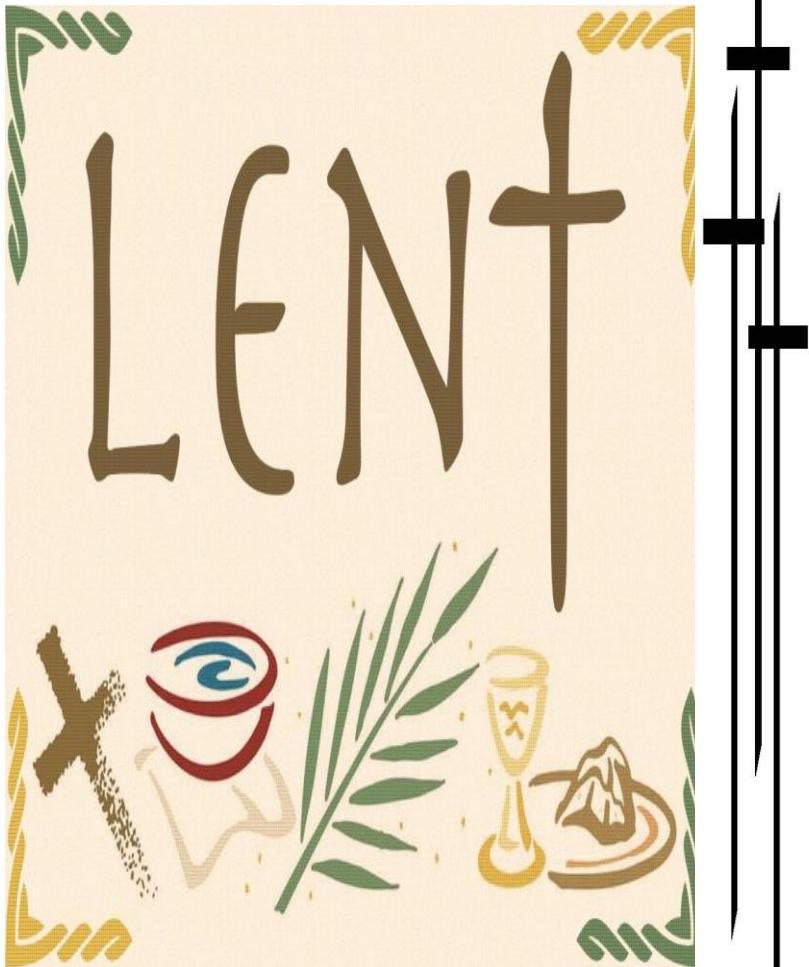


The Pillar

Brecksville United Church of Christ

February 2020



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

IT COULDN'T BE ME, COULD IT?

Matthew 26:20-22 When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve disciples; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “It couldn’t be me, Lord, could it?”

Lent is a time of self-examination, and in some Christian traditions, a time of self-denial. The self-examination component probably stems from the scene in the gospels where Jesus says, “One of you will betray me.” And all the disciples, one after another, say to him, “It couldn’t be me, Lord, could it?”

They all recognized in themselves the capacity to do something unthinkable, something horrific, something counter to everything they believed in. They didn’t want to believe it could be them, but they couldn’t eliminate the possibility entirely. “It’s not me, right? Please say it’s not me.”

A man said to me recently, “It’s not racist not to hire a guy with a black-sounding name. I don’t have time to check everyone who applies, so I’d just look at the neighborhood where they came from, see what morals they have there, and go by that. That’s not racism. It’s just stereotyping.”

Actually, I believe, that is called self-deception. We’re all guilty of it at times. He doesn’t want to believe he’s being racist, so he finds some other reason to reject the black applicant, and he labels it stereotyping, not racism.

It's against this type of self-deception that our self-examination during Lent is meant to defend us. We look at ourselves, as the disciples looked at themselves, to see what we are capable of, even if we don't want to believe it.

We check ourselves against the image of what we want to be, to see if we live up to our own hopes and expectations. Are we, in fact, betraying the Lord in some way that we might not have noticed until Jesus said it out loud?

If we find something we don't like, Lent gives us a time to work on it and ask for Jesus' help with it. "Lord, that's not me, or who I want to be. Help me to be my best self."

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Interested in becoming a Church Member?

New Member classes will take place ***March 1***, and ***March 8*** after Worship Service.

Call Pastor Allan if you are interested in attending at 440-526-4364. Thank you!



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

A LETTER FROM OUR MODERATOR



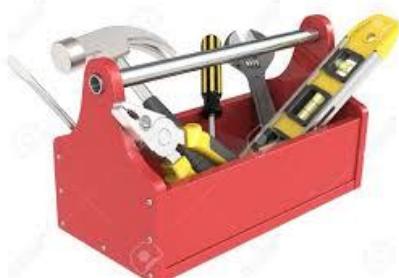
As we prepare for our first council meeting of the year (and the decade), I can't help but reflect on 2019 and all of the changes at BUCC. When Pastor Dave announced his retirement, many of us had questions, concerns, and genuine

anxiety about how we would manage the process of finding our Interim Pastor. We were truly blessed to have Jim Duffy as our Moderator to guide us through the steps. From reviewing resumes to scheduling and facilitating our sometimes-lengthy discussions, Jim was an example of leadership at its finest.

Through all of the extra meetings, emails, and phone calls, Jim was patient and thorough and stuck to the process to make sure we stayed on track. As the new moderator, I am incredibly grateful to have learned from Jim over the last two years and on behalf of all of us at Brecksville United Church of Christ, I thank him for his commitment and service. Wishing you all the best Jim. Heidi Spangler

FACILITIES

1. The concrete ramp leading to the entrance by the parlor has been approved and is in

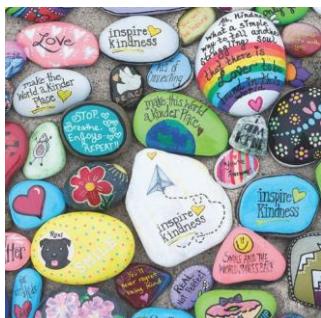


progress and completed in several weeks.

2. This project necessitated that the air conditioners units be moved. This will increase the project cost by \$1400.
3. The light fixture over the front entrance will be removed and repaired. Replacement not possible because of the unique mounting.
4. The LED light replacement will continue in the following order:
1) offices 2) hallways 3) kitchen.
5. Clean and paint the rear entrance doors is scheduled for spring, to be done by Sam Alai.
6. Documentation of the sanctuary sound system and the new audio/visual system in Pilgrim Hall is in progress. Training will also be provided.
7. Install a new thermostat in the narthex is in progress.
8. Gable Elevator has been called to service the elevator – insulation in the motor compartment is deteriorating.

MEMBERSHIP

SAVE-THE-DATE!



For kids of all ages: please help us show that BUCC rocks by joining the fun as we paint rocks to spread good words about BUCC. On March 22 after the service we will serve nutritious and hearty snacks and have all the supplies

for painting rocks so we can spread kindness one rock at a time again in 2020. No artistic talent is needed — just bring good intentions — but it would be a good idea for children to have an old oversize t-shirt to protect good clothes from stray paint.

Thanks, Carol Miller

SAVE-THE-DATE!

We are going Bowling! Please save March 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm. Time and Place to be announced soon!



NEWS FROM OCWM



The next hunger meal will be served on Sunday, February 16th at Pearl Road UMC. The menu will be mostaccioli and meatballs, salad, bread and spread, and cookies for dessert. Two shifts are planned – 3-4 people from 2:30 to 4:00 to set up and prepare, and 4-5 people from 4:00 to 6:00 to serve and clean up. Cookies will be provided by BUCC members and friends.

A sign-up board will appear in the narthex for interested persons to indicate their interest. Also, directions to the church will be posted.

Your attention is called to a letter posted on the board in the upper commons from The Good Shepherd United Church of

Christ in Sahuarita, Arizona, describing their efforts to alleviate the struggling and suffering along the border with Mexico. Sandra Rooney, a former BUCC moderator, now attends the church after she retired and moved to Arizona, and she has previously described this effort to us. Interpretive literature is on a table in the narthex. This is an invitation for interested persons to contribute to this effort. For more information, please contact Bob Chandler.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

Ally (noun) www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary

one that is associated with another as a helper : a person or group that provides assistance and support in an ongoing effort, activity, or struggle *a political ally*
- She has proven to be a valuable ally in the fight for better working conditions.

—often now used specifically of a person who is not a member of a marginalized or mistreated group but who expresses or gives support to that group.



Here are a couple of ways that you can be an Ally to ALL minorities, not just LGBTQ+ (This information comes from monthly '5 Ally Actions' emails from betterallies.com. Would you like to get these emails direct? signup at betterallies.com):

1) Don't tell a person of color that they're well-spoken. Here's the thing. Saying someone is well-spoken can reinforce a negative bias that their demographic typically isn't well-educated, and they're an exception. It's demeaning. Don't go there.

2) Use titles when introducing people. A recent study measured how often people used a doctor's title to introduce them in formal clinical meetings and uncovered some gendered differences. When men introduced women, they used their formal titles 49% of the time. When introducing other men, this jumped to 72%. [This can be even worse for other minorities] In other words, these men showed more professional respect to other men. Not so much for the women... a woman's career advancement could be impacted as a result.

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

MARDI GRAS IS COMING! Get ready for a little New Orleans style celebration before we enter the solemn time of lent. On February 23rd, get out your beads, boas, or whatever makes you feel festive!

As we turn BUCC into the French Quarter. New Orleans jazz will have you tapping your feet as part of this uplifting and positive message service. As they say down on Bourbon Street - *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

"We will continue to celebrate with a potluck in Pilgrim Hall following the service."

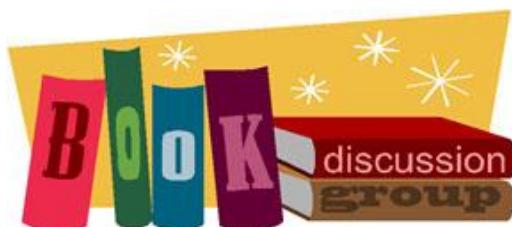


NOTES AND ASIDES

BILL TONEFF HAS A NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER:

200 Laurel Lake Drive, #G102
Hudson, Ohio 44236
330-655-4144

BOOK DISCUSSION



Our book this month is *Dopesick* by Beth Macy. It is a true story of the opioid crisis in America and tells the real-life stories of several addicts, most now deceased, and their families struggle with drugs. It is very enlightening. We will meet on Monday, February 3rd at 1 p.m. in the Parlor.

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.



DONATIONS WANTED PLEASE

The Plastic Bag Ban is going to be county wide in a few short months. We are looking for reusable Grocery Bags to put our Food Donations in, **they will not be returned to us**, those receiving the donation will take it with them, so we are hoping we can have a few on hand to continue to donate them along with the food/supplies we collect.



If you prefer to bring your donations in plastic bags, **please know that is ok**, or if you would like to bring your donation in a reusable bag, that would be fantastic!

Please leave your ***new or gently used*** reusable bag donation on the counter in the Office, I will take it from there. Thank you!

Peace, Jeannette

SCHEDULING



PARTICIPANTS LIST If you know that you cannot be at a Worship Service on a certain Sunday, or if you need to make a change in the Participants Schedule, please call Sue Stenzel at 440-526-4098 or her Cell at 216-695-1899. She handles all the Weekly Participants scheduling. Thank you.

IT'S TIME FOR A NEW DIRECTORY!

It is time for a new Membership Directory. We have had quite a few moves, and number changes. Please email or call me with your information to buccoh@sbcglobal.net or 440-526-4364.



If you are not yet a Member, but would like to keep up with Church news, and Mailings, please feel free to send me your information as well.

****If you have a phone number, or email change that you would not like to have published, please let me know, I will keep it private, we would like to have a way to contact you. Thank you! Jeannette***

MUSIC



SEASONAL CHOIR - Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week on Thursday February 27 from 7-8 PM. Holy Week is scheduled for April 5-12.

The choir will sing special music for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. Seasonal choir provides an excellent opportunity for music, fellowship, and spiritual preparation for the events leading up to Christ's death and resurrection. Listening CDs will be provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome. Any questions, contact Dave Debick.





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

February 5:	Anna Mary Fisher
	Michelina Melfo-Fawcett
February 7:	Julie Bernard
February 8:	Marge Culver
February 11:	Judi Smith, Adam Lane
February 12:	Jeanne Cowden
	Ian Stewart
February 13:	Cliff Stenzel
February 22:	Drew Demko
	Garrett Demko
	Bill Toneff
	Victor Melfo-Fawcett
February 25:	Darlene Kelly
February 26:	Briana Brown
	Kim Stefanini
February 27:	Doug Lightbody
	David Pastor
February 29:	Diane Gressley

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

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2020

Sat., FEBRUARY 1

Sunday, FEBRUARY 2

10 am Worship Service
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Ushers, Acolytes, Peace Candle – Training – Narthex
11:20 am Spiritual Life

Monday, FEBRUARY 3

1 pm Book Discussion
7 pm Facilities - Parlor

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 4

7:15 pm Council Book Discussion

Wed., FEBRUARY 5

Thurs., FEBRUARY 6
1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guitar
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEBRUARY 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEBRUARY 8

Sunday, FEBRUARY 9
10 am Worship
11 am Leadership Dev Meets with Ministry Chairs
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, FEBRUARY 10

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 11

7 pm Leadership Dev Meets with Ministry Chairs

Wed., FEBRUARY 12

7:15 pm Council

Thurs., FEBRUARY 13

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guitar
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEBRUARY 14

Happy Valentine's Day!
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEBRUARY, 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, FEBRUARY, 16

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Leadership Dev Meets with Ministry Chairs

Hunger Meal PRUMC

Monday, FEBRUARY 17

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 18

Wed., FEBRUARY 19

Thurs., FEBRUARY 20
1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guitar
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, FEBRUARY 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEBRUARY 22

Sunday, FEBRUARY 23
10 am Worship – Mardi Gras Service
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, FEBRUARY 24

Tuesday, FEBRUARY 25
7 pm Leadership Dev Meets with Ministry Chairs

Wed., FEBRUARY 26

Ash Wednesday
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Services of Ashes/ Holy Communion

Thurs., FEBRUARY 27

1 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Record/Dul/Guitar
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, FEBRUARY 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEBRUARY 29

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Caroline Candler
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard,
 David Ritchey, Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Natalie Corrado
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Dorie Gabor, Susan
 Snyder
Clean-up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder: Wes Novak

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor
 Nora Gagliano, Heidi
 Spangler
Acolyte: Emily Lane
Peace Candle: Gabriella Gagliano
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters: Marge Culver, Jon
 Thompson
Servers: Joy Garapic, Julie
 Bernard
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Pat
 Rehm
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Ben Davis, Michelina
 Fawcett, Carrie Coyer-
 Westerberg, Jill Zedan
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
C.E Teacher: Kate Klonowski
Counters: David Pastor, Matt
 Wolbert
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Ben
 Rehling
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snow Herder: James Tyler

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Diane
 Gressley,
 Joe & Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle: Pete Kucmins
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E. Teacher: Anne Melfo
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Bruce
 McCane
Servers: MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Snacks: MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Clean-Up: MARDI GRAS POTLUCK
Snow Herder: Tim Wallis

The Pillar

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