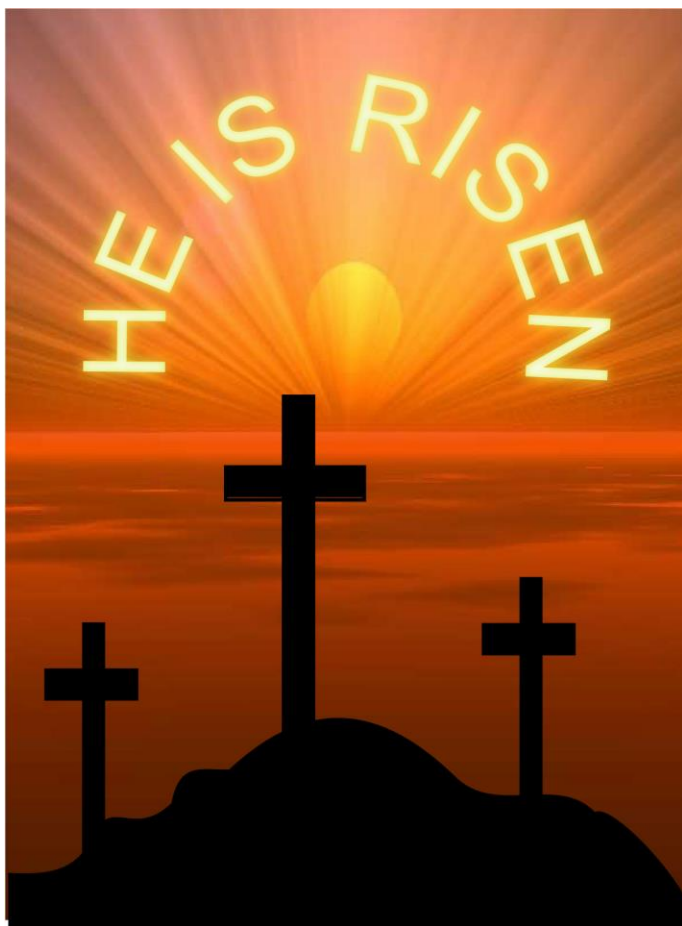


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

April 2020



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Dealing with the Coronavirus

"I looked and there was a pale green horse! It's rider's name was Death, and Hades followed with him; they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and pestilence, and by the wild animals of the earth." Revelation 6:8

The Coronavirus is sweeping around the earth like a plague from the Apocalypse: nations are closing their borders; states are closing their schools; cities are closing their bars and restaurants. Our church has closed its in-person services.

Still, in faith we continue to be God's people and God's community online, using technology to come together while maintaining the social distance scientists recommend to stop the spread of this deadly pandemic. Our worship, our prayers, our caring for each other, all continue unceasingly.

As I write this on March 16th, there is still a great deal of uncertainty about what will happen. Will the United States escape the devastation that has already afflicted China, Iran, Italy, and Spain, or, more likely, will its name be joined to the list of countries that are suffering visible pain from an invisible virus?

Whatever the case, we can be sure that God has not forgotten us. The Apocalypse itself contains some terrifying images along the way, but the end of the story is triumphant: *"God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. 'See,' [God says], 'I am making all things new.'"* (Revelation 21:4-5)

In the meantime, we work out our lives in the midst of chaos and trouble, just as they did in Bible times, waiting on the One who has always proven faithful in the past. As Lent draws to a close, it reminds us that God's will sometimes leads through a cross before resurrection comes...but that resurrection will surely come!

Wash your hands often; maintain strict social distancing practices; keep in touch with God and with the church. And may the God of all comfort give you peace in this dangerous time. God bless us all!

Allan

Matthew 6:27 Jesus said, "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"

This is a stressful time, and stress can make you sick. It weakens your immune system and raises your blood pressure and blood sugar. It increases your risk of heart attack, gives you headaches, causes insomnia.

The Eastern Orthodox church has a meditation mantra that can help relieve stress. It is: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior, have mercy upon me, a sinner." As you say each repetition, take one word at a time and focus on it: After repetition 1: what does it mean for Jesus to be Lord? After repetition 2: Who is this Jesus? Repetition 3: Why does he have this title, Christ? and so forth. Do the repetitions slowly. Don't hurry. Take a deep breath in and out before each one. At the end, hand your worries over to God. Don't take them back again!

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Worshipping Together in a Virtual Way

Here are some further instructions for our current approach to online/dial-in worship, using the ZOOM conference service. There are two ways to join:

1. PHONE:

If you want to call in:

Dial-in Worship Service:

1-929-436-2866

then enter meeting ID (followed by the # sign):

478 070 5901 #

During the call, you can unmute yourself by pressing *6, to say something that all will hear. Then press *6 to mute yourself again. Hang up at the end of the service.

2. COMPUTER / SMARTPHONE / IPAD:

If you want to connect with your computer, follow this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>

If you have not used Zoom before, you may have to download the app the first time you click on the link with your computer.

If you have a smart phone or iPad, you can go to the app store and search for Zoom Cloud Meetings:



When you click or the link from the email or start the Zoom app on your phone, you may not

automatically go into our
If so, press the Join a Meeting

Join a Meeting

meeting.
button,

then you get a screen that asks you for the Meeting ID. Enter: 478 070 5901.

In general, you should use your computer/smartphone/iPad's audio.

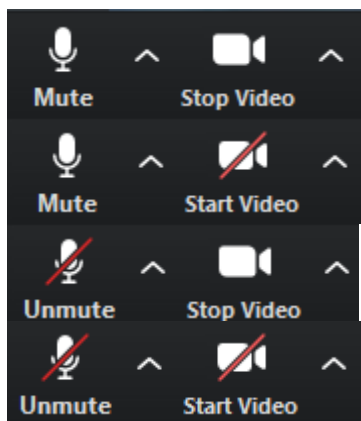
If you have turned on your video camera, it gives you a chance to see what others will see when you join the meeting.

In general, to ensure the best listening experience for everyone, you should be "on mute" most of the time, unless you have something specific to say to everyone.

During the service, you should see these controls:

- on the lower left of your computer screen

- on the lower left of your smart phone
- on the upper right of your iPad



People can see and hear you

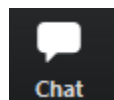
People cannot see you, but they can hear you

People can see you, but cannot hear you

No one can see or hear you
(best for everyone else on the call)

The controls show what will happen when you click on them. You toggle between “on” and “off” settings. On your smartphone & iPad, these controls also alternate between red and green.

You can type a note that anyone can see by Chat icon:



using the

At the end of the meeting, or if you need to leave, you click on the Leave Meeting control, or exit the app.

Leave Meeting

We will be improving our Virtual Worship techniques as time progresses.

If you have further questions, please contact me or anyone else in the Communication & Outreach Ministry

Jim Duffy

jmorganduffy@gmail.com 216-644-2784

FACILITIES

1. The light in the hallways have been converted to LED and made the hallways more inviting.
2. We are waiting for gable elevator to give us an estimate for removing the deteriorating insulation and replacing the oil.
3. The steeple illumination is being addressed. One of the lights is not working.
4. We are reviewing the rates charged by our current electric provider to see if we can find a cheaper provider.
5. We are getting an estimate to convert the parlor lights to LED.
6. The ramp by the parlor entrance has been repaired and the air conditioning units are to returned to their original location.
7. A leak in the bathroom in the Arlington property has been repaired.



FINANCE



A check has been sent to the Open & Affirm Coalition in the amount of \$446. Thank you for your support.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

NOTES AND ASIDES

MUSIC

On Sunday April 26 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring the 216 Brass Quintet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The program will include works by Gabrieli, Bach, Scheidt, Byrd, Ewald, and Plog. The ensemble musicians are Johnathon Pitts and Daniel Gelman on trumpet; Nick Giralico, horn; Chris Ramos, trombone; and Christopher Jordan, bass trombone. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program.

Note: Due to the coronavirus situation, this event will be subject to whatever State of Ohio social distancing parameters are in place toward the end of April. Please contact the church office to confirm status of concert before event: 440-526-4364. ›

Regarding BUCC music rehearsals during April, I think it's best if we don't list anything for the time being. I can always text or email choir members with updates as needed.

A NEED FOR PET SHELTER DONATIONS

The items needed are - old blankets, bedding/linens, towels, pet items like collars, toys, beds, food/water bowls, Purina dog and cat food, and anything else that might be good for pets. It is going to the Northeast Ohio SPCA on Brookpark Road. It is a no kill shelter and the animals are cared for there until they find a forever home :)



If church members would like to donate, they can give the items to Marla at any time or just leave them on the pew in the entry way with my name or "pet shelter donation" written on them. I'll collect them whenever they are placed there. If anyone has any other questions, please contact Marla Corrado.



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

April 5:	Phyllis Molnar
April 6:	G Wardlaw
April 9:	Arthur Cook
April 10:	Jan Wardlaw
April 12:	Sandra Rooney
April 14:	Max Roha
April 17:	Lynne Struck
April 18:	Brian Esser
April 21:	Vickie Szabo
April 22:	Nate Hunt
	Evan Smith
April 27:	Rob Grow
April 29:	Sherrill Witt
	Claire Esser
April 30:	Jeannette Kroeger

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

CALENDAR APRIL 2020

Due to Social Distancing that we are practicing - there are no Meetings, or events planned for the month of April. If anything changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Wed., APRIL 1	Thurs., APRIL 16
Thurs., APRIL 2	Friday, APRIL 17 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Friday, APRIL 3 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Sat., APRIL 18
Sat., APRIL 4	Sunday, APRIL 19
Sunday, APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY	Monday, APRIL 20
Monday, APRIL 6	Tuesday, APRIL 21
Tuesday, APRIL 7	Wed., APRIL 22
Wed., APRIL 8	Thurs., APRIL 23
Thurs., APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Friday, APRIL 24 *OFFICE CLOSED*
Friday, APRIL 10 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Sat., APRIL 25
Sat., APRIL, 11	Sunday, APRIL 26
Sunday, APRIL, 12 <u>HE IS RISEN!</u> <u>HAPPY EASTER</u>	Monday, APRIL 27
Monday, APRIL 13	Tuesday, APRIL 28
Tuesday, APRIL 14	Wednesday, APRIL 29
Wed., APRIL 15 *PILLAR DEADLINE*	Thursday, APRIL 30

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 5, 2020

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart

APRIL 12, 2020

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbet

APRIL 19, 2020

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs

APRIL 26, 2020

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan

****Only the Lay Readers are
scheduled while we continue to
hold Worship Services online.***

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

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Deadline for copy: The

fifteenth day of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

FIRST CLASS

