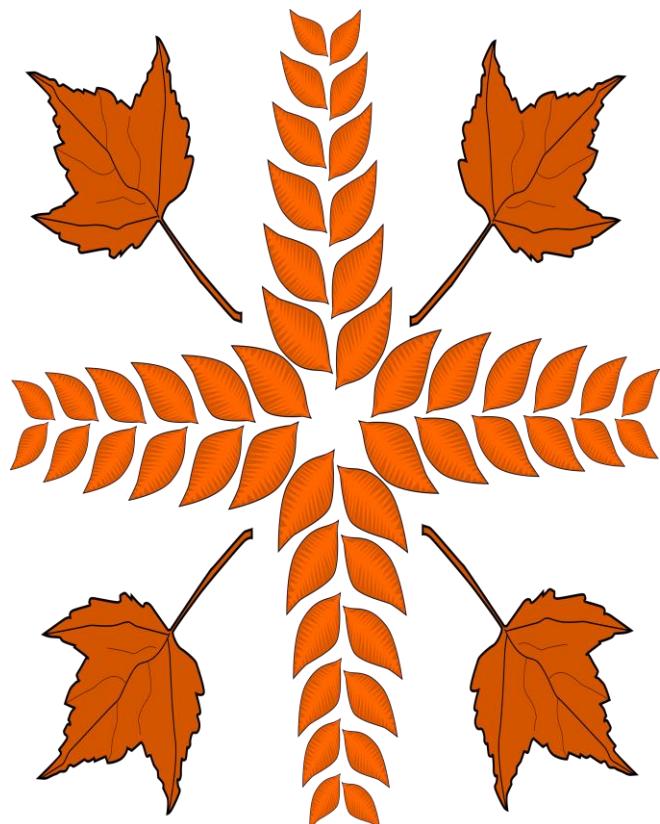


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

NOVEMBER 2020



*To Be Loving, Serving, and Accepting
Of All People
with God's Life-Changing Power and Grace*

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Rev. Sharon Core recently told me about her friend, Fr. Alex Martin, pastor at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Bay Village. St. Barnabas had installed a “homeless Jesus” sculpture on their grounds. It was a park bench with Jesus lying on it, covered in a blanket. It took 20 minutes before someone had called the cops on the statue!

Fr. Martin wrote in an email to the Cleveland Scene: “[The sculpture] reminds us that, even though homelessness is not a significant problem in our immediate neighborhood, we don’t have to drive far to find those in tremendous need. Perhaps the statue will inspire those who see it to take action and help. . . Seeing Jesus depicted this way reminds us that Jesus identified with the outcast and marginalized in his own day. He spent much of his time with tax collectors and prostitutes, largely to the chagrin of polite society.” To see the article on the statue (with pictures), you can visit: <https://www.clevscene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2020/10/15/in-bay-village-someone-called-cops-on-a-sleeping-homeless-person-it-was-a-statue-of-jesus>

People have complained about the statue, saying that it does nothing to help the homeless, and that it’s a waste of space and money. And yet the statue is doing what art does: it’s provoking discussion, it’s raising awareness, it’s forcing people to answer the question, “If this statue is the wrong way to help the homeless, then what is the right way? And why aren’t you doing that?”

As a church, it’s important that we insist on compassion for all people, and that we resist all efforts to make the lives of the homeless even more difficult than they already are. As we contemplate our stewardship for this coming year, let’s remember that part of what we give will go to programs that help the hungry and the homeless, both locally and nationally. Our recent Neighbors in Need Collection went to help with the problem of housing instability. At a recent “Still Speaking” meeting in the BUCC’s parking lot, we met a woman passing through who told us that she had no permanent home, just some temporary shelter. It’s because of meeting her that I wanted to raise up the plight of the homeless this month, as the weather turns colder and life gets harder for those without a home to offer shelter.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE

A check was sent to the Living Waters Association for money collected for Neighbors in Need in the amount of \$510, along with quarterly dues. As always, your generosity is appreciated more than words can say!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Bible Study via Zoom?: We are checking in to see who would be interested in a virtual Adult Bible Study while the church building remains closed (or even after reopening)! Please weigh in with your responses here: <https://rb.gy/ywjarw> (by typing this web address in the top bar of your internet browser, you will be taken to a response form that will automatically send your answers to Kate.) If you have any questions, please reach out to CE Chair Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

Return of The Mitten Tree: The Mitten Tree will be set up in the lower lobby (inside the back door) of the church beginning November 2nd. It would be wonderful if its magical branches could be replenished again this year for our neighbors in need! You are welcome to bring in any new/gently used (or newly-created!) hats, mittens, gloves and scarves which will find new homes when we provide hunger meals. The back doors will be open during regular church hours. If you have a contribution but are unable to stop by the church, please reach out to Kate Klonowski (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com to arrange for a pickup.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

All Souls Memorial Service: Brecksville UCC is having a memorial service to honor those loved ones who have passed away this year. This service will take place virtually on the evening of All Souls day, Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM. You can access it via Zoom at meeting by dialing **1-929-205-6099** and using **ID# 478 070 5901**, or you can use this link (the same as for Sunday Services): <https://zoom.us/j/4780705901>.

Advent Book: The spiritual life ministry has begun working on the 2020 Advent book, and will distribute it by November 29th. As we have not been together in church since March, we needed to approach it differently this year! By reading through Advent books from all prior years, each member of the SL ministry chose 10 passages. From those 80 passages, 40 have been selected to comprise the 2020 version. There will be some from members who are no longer with us, or you may read one that you wrote previously. The finished booklet will go out electronically for everyone with a computer, and hard copies will be available for those who don't have a computer (or would just like a hard copy). These will be available for pick up or delivery just before November 28th.

Looking forward to sharing this Advent book with all of you!

Thank you,
Spiritual Life Ministry

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

It's the time of year when The Leadership Development Ministry starts inviting the church members to take part as an officer of the church, as a ministry chairperson, or as a ministry member. If you are already involved in some capacity for the current year, Thank You!! Please let us know if you are remaining in your position for 2021, or if you would like to change it up and do something else. If you are not currently involved, please let us know how the spirit is calling you to share your gifts. Contact anyone on LD, and we can help you find the best fit for you - our goal is to have positions filled by the end of November, so we hope to hear from you soon! Feel free to contact Bridget Sproul at 216-375-8517 or sproulbridget@yahoo.com, or any of the other members of LD (Julie Bernard, Linda Kriynovich, Cliff Cribbs, Sue Maier or Beth Rehling).

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to be your moderator this past year. The word “unexpected” is the best one I can find to describe these pasts 10 months. Knowing how we came together to keep our church going, through an event no one anticipated, brings me joy and makes me smile. I hope it does the same for you.

This year, Stewardship will present on “Three Great Loves.” Speakers will ask all of us to think of ways we can create a more just world. Some of us were drawn to BUCC by the genuine atmosphere of welcome and inclusion, and became members to be active participants in this vision. After a year of witnessing so much injustice and so much pain, we can renew our commitment by embracing Three Great Loves:

Love of Neighbor; Love of Children; Love of Creation

Over the next few weeks, members will share stories of how BUCC has represented these Three Great Loves in their own lives. You will also be asked to make your financial commitment to BUCC for the coming year. When considering your pledge, please reflect on the vision of our church, and the amazing impact we can have as a church that practices the Three Great Loves.

Whether you contribute financially or with your own time and talents, every offering has an impact. Contributions support outreach programs for those in need, as well as provide for staffing and building maintenance of the church. When we are able to re-open, we will need to implement new safety measures, while still providing online worship options for those who feel safer staying at home. We are learning how to face new challenges every day, and with your continued support, we will be stronger for it!

Many thanks to all of you for sharing yourselves with BUCC this past year. I genuinely believe there is no better example of the Three Great Loves than the members of our small but mighty church. Looking forward to another year of learning together and working to achieve our mission.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

*Love and Peace,
Heidi Spangler
Moderator*

Note from Committee: The Stewardship committee reminds everyone to seriously consider the words in our Moderator's letter. Please look in the mail for your pledge card, to designate your financial contribution to carrying out the works of Brecksville United Church of Christ. During November Sunday services, we look forward to hearing reflections from members of our congregation on the theme of "Three Great Loves" as follows:

- "Love of Children" - Lindsey Maier
- "Love of Neighbor" - Pat Rehm
- "Love of Creation" - Kathy Pastor
- *Love in Action* - Kate Klonowski

Thanks for supporting BUCC's ministries!

PASTOR SEARCH & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

PSNC Report: The PSNC has had two Zoom meetings to date. The first was a "get acquainted" meeting in August, led by Pastor Allan. It included the distribution of materials that the Committee will use to complete a new Church Profile. The Church Profile is the document that helps us attract and find our new BUCC Pastor. It is very detailed and will take several months to properly complete. It will then be submitted to the Living Water Association (LWA) for approval and distribution.

The second Zoom meeting was in September and was conducted by Nayiri Karijian, the General Minister of the NE Ohio LWA. Nayiri further took us on a more detailed tour of our responsibilities as committee members, our Church Profile requirements, and additional resources at our disposal. She also explained how the Living Water Association will assist us once we have candidates replying to our search documents. This search could take from 12-18 months to completion.

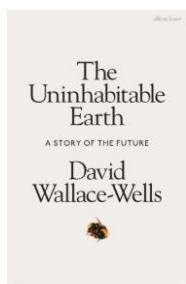
As part of the Church Profile, the Committee has decided that we need a current congregation census/survey, which we will conduct internally (rather than hiring an outside service to do it). Allan Klonowski and Jim Duffy are working on this and congregation members should be expecting personal phone calls in the near future, to get information about them and their relationship with BUCC. The Committee hopes that everyone will enthusiastically respond to these calls!

Respectfully submitted,
Sherrill Witt & Cliff Cribbs

OCWM

Hunger Meal: The next hunger meal will be on Sunday, November 1st, at Iglesia Emmanuel on W. 41st St. in Cleveland. Because of the pandemic, the meal will be served in a “take away” fashion. Serving begins at about 3:30 pm – the attendance at hunger meals has decreased as of late, so we will plan to make meals for 30 people. MANY THANKS to Bob and Caroline Chandler, for volunteering to do all the prep and distribution for this hunger meal!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OCWM



An OCWM/CE joint venture, the book club has selected its next book on the theme of environmental stewardship. We will be reading *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells. The first meeting will be Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 pm on Zoom (the same codes we use for church services). We will be discussing all of Part 1: “Cascades”. Please feel free to contact Kate Klonowski at (216) 534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com with any questions!

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

Worshiping Together in a Virtual Way: We have been successfully worshipping via Zoom since April. To join the service by phone, simply dial **1-929-205-6099** and enter the “meeting ID number”, which is **478 070 5901 #**. During the call, if you want to say something that everyone can hear, press * and the number **6** on your phone (unmute). Press the same sequence again to put yourself back on mute. Simply hang up at the end of the service. If you wish to join worship on your computer, go to our website - brecksvilleucc.org – and under the **Worship** tab, click on “**Upcoming and Recent Services**”. Then click on the blue “**Join Zoom**” button.

OPEN & AFFIRMING MINISTRY (ONA)

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.

Transgender Day of Remembrance: Since its inception, Transgender Day of Remembrance takes place annually on November 20. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, and is the culmination of Transgender Awareness Week.

STAND UP to Bullying Day: Appropriately, International STAND UP to Bullying Day is on also on November 20th this year. It's a semi-annual event, and occurs on the third Friday of November (to coincide with Anti-bullying week), and then again on the last Friday of February.

NOTES AND ASIDES

Members **George and Carole Snider** are very excited to announce that they are going to have THREE new great-grandbabies (all girls) to join the other 5! One is due at the end of October, one the beginning of November and the other at the end of November. Equality reigns - 4 girls and 4 boys! Expectant moms are all doing well.

Also, **Joy Garapic** forwarded greetings from a beloved member in Florida, "Miss seeing you. I really appreciate the Zoom church services. Pastor Allan's sermons are always so inspirational. Love, **Joanne Cook**"

BUCC MASKS - If you would like your very own "Still Speaking" mask, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498, or email at keightykay@gmail.com and she will mail or deliver (contact-free) one to you! Suggested donation \$10 (proceeds go toward the BUCC general fund).

LITTLE FREE ANTIRACISM LIBRARY- We were so pleased to see Gina Thomas and her family and friends, on the cover of the November Brecksville Magazine! If you don't receive this publication, you can find it online at: <http://www.scriptype.com/2020/10/19/november-2020-brecksville-magazine/>

Please consider donating a book if you are able, to help build a good selection. You can do so through Gina, online via Amazon, or just drop one directly into the mailbox (please alert Gina so she can ID and add the book to her catalog). The wish list can be found on amazon.com - you can either search the wish list for "Anti-racist Free Little Library of Brecksville", or access it through this link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/36F1K25B50O1N?ref_=wl_share

Gina is happy to answer any questions you may have - please feel free to contact her at ginamthomas@gmail.com.

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Happy, Happy November Birthdays* to the following BUCC 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
	Evelyn Duffy
November 9:	Susan Stenzel
	Amelia Tyler
November 13:	Dan Maier
November 14:	Joe Gagliano
November 17:	Caroline Chandler
	Andrew Wilson
November 22:	Tim Wallis

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

CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday, NOV. 1 **2:00am Daylight Saving Time Ends – Set your clocks back 1 hour!** 9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy 10 am Zoom Worship Service 11:15am Spiritual Life	Wed., NOV. 11 7:15pm Council	Tue., NOV. 24 11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour
Mon., NOV. 2 7 pm Zoom All Souls Day Service	Thur., NOV. 12 7pm Book Club	Wed., NOV. 25
Tue., NOV. 3 11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour	Fri., NOV. 13 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Thur., NOV. 26 THANKSGIVING
Wed., NOV. 4 7pm SCR	Sat., NOV. 14	Fri., NOV. 27 *OFFICE CLOSED* NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY
Thur., NOV. 5 7pm Book Club	Sunday, NOV. 15 9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy 10am Zoom Worship Service	Sat., NOV. 28
Fri., NOV. 6 *OFFICE CLOSED*	Mon., NOV. 16 *PILLAR DEADLINE*	Sunday, NOV. 29 9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy 10am Zoom Worship Service
Sat., NOV. 7	Tue., NOV. 17 11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour	Mon., NOV. 30
Sunday, NOV. 8 9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy 10 am Zoom Worship Service	Weds., NOV. 18	
Mon., NOV. 9 7pm Stewardship	Thur., NOV. 19 7pm Book Club	
Tue., NOV. 10 11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour	Fri., NOV. 20 *OFFICE CLOSED*	
	Sat., NOV. 21	
	Sunday, NOV. 22 9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy 10 am Zoom Worship Service	
	Mon., NOV. 23	

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Nov. 1, 2020

Lay Reader: Sue Maier
Responder: Sherrill Witt
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

Nov. 8, 2020

Lay Reader: Leroy Ford
Responder: Linda Kriyovich
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

Nov. 15, 2020

Lay Reader: Carol Miller
Responder: Pat Rehm
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

Nov. 22, 2020

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Responder: Sue Stenzel
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

Nov. 29, 2020

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Responder: Jan Renovetz
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS