



The *Pillar*
Brecksville United Church of Christ



TO BE LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
OF ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER AND GRACE

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Time is continuous. We know this. We divide it up into parts anyway. A minute is literally a minute part of an hour. A second is a second division of an hour into parts even more minute than minutes. We get the words from the Latin-speaking Romans, but the division into 60 parts was a Babylonian specialty. Our interest in time goes back a long way! In fact, I just read that anthropologists had been stumped for a long time about early calendars found in cave sites because they were obsessed with the moon and with 28 day cycles. Why did early humans care so much about the moon? Once women were admitted to the fraternity of anthropologists, the concern with tracking monthly cycles was immediately obvious. If you still need a hint, the Latin word for months is 'menses.' However, a strange thing has happened with years. Some are longer than others. The one we just went through went on forever. It seemed like it would never end, with what felt like the longest 366 days in recorded history—because, of course, February had an extra leap day just to make the year even longer!

We're just beginning a new one, and although we had all hoped that COVID-19 would be done with by the end of A.D. 2020, it's still lingering on as the vaccinations progress. Nonetheless, I take heart from the conclusion that A.J. Jacobs drew from his reading of the entire text of the Encyclopedia Britannica (*The Know-It-All: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World*, 2005). After he had read through it all, he declared that the underlying lesson of all of human history was: "*This, too, shall pass.*" Nothing lasts forever, and change is the one constant that we can count on. That's really what time is: change. If everything were frozen exactly as it is, we wouldn't be able to tell that time was passing. But things do change, so there is time, and time is where we live.

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Pastor's Ponderings

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The amazing thing is that God left eternity, which is outside time, and entered into time - where we live - to live with us as one of us, as Jesus of Nazareth. The unchanging God became subject to time, which is change! God in human flesh was a baby, an adolescent, an adult - all the stages of life. And then, the final stage which lies ahead for all of us, death. But Jesus' life implies that there is one more change to come in the time after death: life again that's not subject to change - in eternity, outside change and outside time, forever.

The coming of Christ is so significant that Christians divided time around it, with the time before, and the time after, BC and AD. And that's why this is 2021! I pray that this year will be a time worth celebrating as we live as disciples of Christ.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



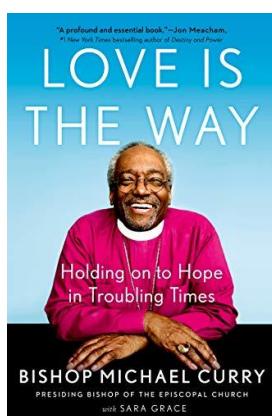
STEWARDSHIP

Pledges: We are so grateful to those who have sent their pledges for the coming year - your prompt responses and generous support are inspiring, humbling and deeply appreciated! To those who have not returned their pledges yet, please consider that we rely upon your information in order to form a realistic picture of the church's financial future. We respectfully ask that you please send your pledges as soon as possible, and as always, thank you for your support!

OCWM

Hunger Meal: Our next hunger meal will be served on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. Due to the pandemic, the meal has been executed very differently. At the last meal at this site, the church opened its kitchen to us so that we could serve a hot entrée (the usual mostaccioli). The rest of the menu was salad, trail bars, bananas, and bottled water. The meal was placed in a plastic clam shell and placed in a plastic bag. The bags were “dispensed” at the side door of the church, where attendees picked up the bag with the meal. At this writing, the logistics of preparing and serving the meal are still uncertain. Our hope is that the details for this meal will be discussed with the BCCM (Brookside Cluster Community Meal) resource person very soon. If the kitchen is open, we could prepare another hot entrée - if not, we will prepare sandwiches, etc. Depending on what the BCCM decides to do, volunteers might be needed, so here’s a chance to start the new year right! Anyone interested can contact **Bob Chandler at 330-416-5733(cell)** or **rchandler@zoominternet.net**.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OCWM



Social Justice Book Club: OCWM and Christian Education will be co-sponsoring the next installment of the Social Justice Bookclub! The first meeting for the new book will be on Thursday, January 14th, from 7:00-8:00 PM in the BUCC “Zoom Room”. We will be starting ***Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times***, by Bishop Michael Curry. You may purchase a copy here or anywhere books are sold!

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OCWM

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For our first meeting, please have read the introduction and first chapter. We will create a reading schedule for the remainder of the book, and assign weekly discussion leaders at our first meeting. Even if you haven't had time to read, please feel free to join in and listen to the discussion - we'd love to have enough folks involved to need breakout rooms! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Kate Klonowski** at **keightykay@gmail.com** or **216-534-3498** (text ok).

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:** Simply 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.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Telephone Call: The Search Committee will be conducting a telephone survey of all members. We are doing this so that we can give pastoral candidates a better sense of who we are, and whether the BUCC would be their choice if selected. We would like to get feedback from as many members of each household as possible, so that we can have the greatest input and accuracy in surveying our congregation. This survey will be a current census as well, which is required for our Church Profile. All information is confidential, and the surveys are being submitted for analysis without names - **they will be anonymous**. Please take a look at the member survey below, so that you may prepare for your phone call and have thoughtful answers at the ready. The Search Committee thanks you in advance for your participation and your thoughts, as we work on finding the right person for our church.

The following are the Telephone Survey questions:

1. Are you a member/attendee of BUCC at this time? (If yes, skip to question 5.)
2. If not, when were you a member? Follow-up: Why did you leave?
3. What, if anything, would renew your interest in attending BUCC again?
4. City and Zip Code?
5. Age?
6. Gender you identify by?
7. Occupation?
8. Education?
9. How many years at BUCC?
10. How often do you attend services?
11. Do you participate in any BUCC ministries?

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PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

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12. Did you attend other congregations/denominations before BUCC? If yes, which one(s)?
13. What attracted you to BUCC if you attended services elsewhere?
14. What do you like best about BUCC?
15. What do you like least about BUCC?
16. What would you expect of your new pastor?
17. What would you not want in your new pastor?
18. Have you attended a ZOOM service during the Coronavirus pandemic?
19. If so, would you like them to continue, (even when we return to in-person services), for you or people who are unable to attend in person - i.e. shut-ins, people in distant locations, etc.?
20. Are there any other thoughts that you would like to share?
21. Are there any other persons in your household who attend services at BUCC I can interview now (or you can speak on behalf of)?

Thank you for time and helping our pastor selection process!

NOTES AND ASIDES

It's been so wonderful to hear from members new and old during this time of year! The office is proudly displaying beautiful cards and notes from Terry Heiman & Maureen Stanley, Dassie Matsuoka, Edie O'Donnell, Janet Roth, Jim Duffy, and Janet Renovetz, just to mention a few! It's always so uplifting to receive your notes – we wish you all the very best, pray for your good health, and miss you as much as you miss us!

Face Masks: Our very own BUCC face masks are washable and re-usable! These masks bear the UCC slogan: "Still Speaking," along with our church's name. The suggested donation is \$10, and all of the proceeds from the masks go into the Pastor's Fund*. They are available for pick up or delivery (at no extra charge) - please let Anne know what your preference is when ordering.

*The Pastor's Fund is used exclusively to provide limited assistance to members and neighbors in need. The fund purchases grocery store gift cards, and helps folks with rent and utility bills, along with other basic necessities.



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

January 5:	Cassy Martinez
January 7:	Maxwell Hunt
	Sue Maier
January 9:	Dylan Rees
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!***



FRI., JAN. 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 2

Sunday, JAN. 3

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship Service
11:15am Spiritual Life

Mon., JAN. 4

Tue., JAN. 5

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., JAN. 6

7pm SCR

Thur., JAN. 7

Fri., JAN. 8
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 9

Sunday, JAN. 10
9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship Service

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2021

Mon., JAN. 11

Tue., JAN. 12

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., JAN. 13

7:15pm Council Mtng.

Thur., JAN. 14

7pm Book Club

Fri., JAN. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 16

Sunday, JAN. 17

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 18

Tue., JAN. 19

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., JAN. 20

Thur., JAN. 21

7pm Book Club

Fri., JAN. 22

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 23

Sunday, JAN. 24

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 25

Tue., JAN. 26

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., JAN. 27

Thur., JAN. 28

7pm Book Club

Fri., JAN. 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 30

Sunday, JAN. 31

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms.Mindy
10am Zoom Worship Service

2021

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Jan. 3, 2021

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Responder: Rose Kaval
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Heidi Spangler

Jan. 10, 2021

Lay Reader: Leroy Ford
Responder: Diane Gressley
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: TBA

Jan. 17, 2021

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Responder: Sue Stenzel
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: TBA

Jan. 24, 2021

Lay Reader: Janet Renovetz
Responder: Sherrill Witt
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: TBA

Jan. 31, 2021

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



The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS