



The *Pillar*
Brecksville United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY 2021

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

February is Black History Month. Why should we, an almost entirely White congregation, care about Black History? In fact, why should we care about anyone's history at all?

Back in the 1980's there was a text-based computer game whose name I have forgotten. The premise was that you awoke in an empty bathtub not knowing who you were. You had no memory of how you got there or why you were in the bathtub. You were just in a situation that you didn't understand. The goal of the game was to discover your own identity. Without history, that's our situation. We are awaking with no memory of who we are or how we got into our present situation. History tells us what brought us to this moment, as well as why we have these scars in our national psyche and those warm feelings when we see a piece of red, white, and blue cloth.

Looking around, we might wonder why the median net worth of Black families is 1/10th that of White families. (Source: brookings.edu) Without knowing Black history, we might be tempted to think that Blacks are lazy, or can't manage money, or bear some other personal fault as a race (some individual Blacks do have these qualities, as do some individual Whites, of course, as they are faults of the whole human race). But once we know history, we can see things differently. We know that much White wealth was built up because they had 246 years of unpaid labor from Blacks. We know that Whites massacred the wealthy Blacks of "Black Wall Street" in 1921 in the Tulsa Massacre, depriving them of the chance to pass on accumulated wealth to their descendants. We learn that Jim Crow "Black Codes" strictly limited opportunities for Blacks in many southern states. We discover that Blacks were left out of the housing provisions of the GI Bill because banks wouldn't make loans for mortgages to Blacks.

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Pastor's Ponderings

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Further, the federal government, local governments, and the private sector also used a mechanism called “redlining” to keep Blacks out of certain neighborhoods and deprive them of goods and services available to whites. Perhaps we are shocked to learn that the New Deal’s Fair Labor Standards Act exempted domestic, agricultural and service occupations from its provisions - not coincidentally, the very occupations most likely to be carried out by Black workers. (Source: Rothstein, Richard, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*) In all of these ways, and many more, Whites were able to accumulate wealth while Blacks were denied the opportunity. When Blacks did accumulate wealth, White rioters stole it, or destroyed it, and drove Blacks away without compensation.

When we remember Black History, we understand our own society better. And we understand the injustices that we, as Christians, are called upon to put right. Too often, Christians have been on the wrong side of the racial justice issue. Knowing Black history better will help us to have empathy with our Black fellow citizens, and to do as the prophet Micah said:

*“What does the LORD require of you:
to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.”*

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FINANCE



In memory of Donn Whyte, a check in the amount of \$730 was sent to the Living Water Association, for the UCC Christmas Fund. This donation was made by Donn's daughter, Amanda Whyte.

FUND RAISER! We will be hosting a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 5th, 2021. This fundraiser will be presented with the help of the Tri-C Culinary Arts Department and Stone Soup. The students have been trained in the latest COVID-19 restaurant protocols, i.e., in addition to gloves, masks and social distancing, they've studied the new "no-touch" food safety guidelines and services. It will be served "carry out" style, and all proceeds will directly benefit the BUCC. Volunteers are needed to assist with planning, coordinating and distribution to customers on the day of the event. This dinner will be open to the public, and we hope for strong congregational support. If you're interested in lending a helping hand, please call or text **Doug Fawcett** at **440-653-3572**. Thank you!

STEWARSHIP

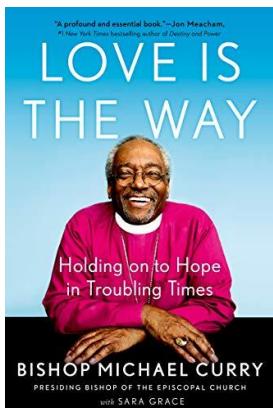
For those who have not yet chosen a ministry to support this year, the following link may help! It has been recently added to our website, and brings you to the current BUCC Ministry Handbook, along with individual links for each ministry. Our hope is that you will read it thoughtfully and with an open heart, so that it becomes clear where you are being called to serve. Please go to: <https://brecksvilleucc.org/ministries/> .

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

SOCK IT TO ME SUNDAY: Thank you for your generosity over the past couple months! Our last Sox donation was delivered at the end of December, to the City Mission on Carnegie Ave. Because of their association with Laura's Home (a women's shelter), it's very likely that all of the women's socks will be forwarded there. We are still collecting donations until the end of the month, as the shelters we have delivered to have been very happy to receive BUCC's donations. If you wish to drop off some socks at the church, please call Anne at **440-526-4364**, so that she can make sure the back doors are unlocked for you. Likewise, you may contact Elizabeth by either phone call or text, at **440-319-6384**, or by email at elizgadus@gmail.com. Thank you and God Bless!

HUNGER MEAL: By the time you read this, our first hunger meal of 2021 (on January 24th) will be a thing of the past. Our next hunger meal is scheduled for Easter Sunday, which falls on April 4th this year. It will be held at Pearl Road United Methodist Church, and as the date approaches, more details will be available. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact **Bob Chandler** at **330-416-5733**(cell) or rchandler@zoominternet.net.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OCWM



The Social Justice Book Club is reading *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, by Bishop Michael Curry. Meetings are on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, and all are held via Zoom (using the same codes we use for church services). The discussion questions will be emailed at the beginning of the week. 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 PSNC is diligently making survey calls to everyone from the BUCC. If you have not been called yet, don't worry – your input is essential, and no one will be “left behind”! The following are the members who are conducting the survey calls: Beth Rehling, Ben Rehling, Jon Thompson, Cliffs Cribbs, Joy Garapic, Sherrill Witt and Alan Klonowski.

On the next page, you will find the list of survey questions. For more information, call **Sherrill Witt** at **216-244-6916**, or **Cliff Cribbs** at **216-970-6347**. Thank you in advance for your time and insights!

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PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE (continued)

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?
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?

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PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Telephone Survey Questions: (continued)

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?
 - 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

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES: To Bill Toneff and Jeanne Cowden, who are both turning 102 this month – many blessings to you!

NEW MEMBERS: We extend a warm BUCC welcome to Rose and Vince Kaval, and Allison Colbert. It's always wonderful to gain new members, and these folks are proof that not even a pandemic can stop us from hearing God's call!

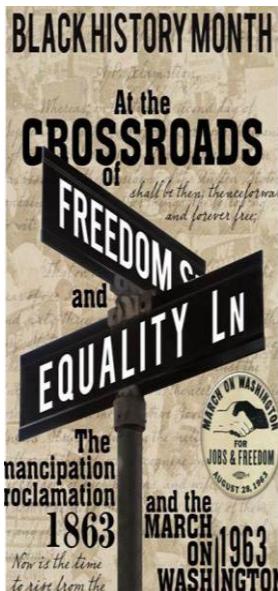
Face Masks: Our very own BUCC face masks are washable and re-usable! These masks bear the UCC slogan: "Still Speaking," along with our church's name. The suggested donation is \$10, and all of the proceeds from the masks go into the Pastor's Fund*. They are available for pick up or delivery (at no extra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



**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 Fawcett
February 7:	Julie Bernard
February 8:	Marge Culver
February 10:	Michelle Rogers
February 11:	Judi Smith Adam Lane
February 12:	Jeanne Cowden Ian Stewart
February 13:	Cliff Stenzel
February 22:	Bill Toneff
February 25:	Darlene Kelly
February 27:	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!**



Mon., FEB. 1

Tue., FEB. 2

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., FEB. 3

7pm SCR

Thu., FEB. 4

7pm Book Club

Fri., FEB. 5

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 6

Sunday, FEB. 7

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

Mon., FEB. 8

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2021

Tue., FEB. 9

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., FEB. 10

7:15pm Council Mtng.

Thu., FEB. 11

7pm Book Club

Fri., FEB. 12

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 13

Sunday, FEB. 14

♥ *valentine's Day* ♥

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

Mon., FEB. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Tue., FEB. 16

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., FEB. 17

ASH WEDNESDAY

7pm Zoom Service

Thu., FEB. 18

7pm Book Club

Fri., FEB. 19

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 20

Sunday, FEB. 21

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

Mon., FEB. 22

Tue., FEB. 23

11am Pastor's Virtual Office Hour

Wed., FEB. 24

Thu., FEB. 25

7pm Book Club

Fri., FEB. 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 27

Sunday, FEB. 28

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



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Feb. 7, 2021

Lay Reader: Julie Bernard
Responder: Bridget Sproul
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: David Pastor

Feb. 14, 2021

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Responder: Cliff Cribbs
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Jim Duffy

Feb. 21, 2021

Lay Reader: Kathy Smith
Responder: Linda Kriynovich
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Sue Maier

Feb. 28, 2021

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



The Pillar

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