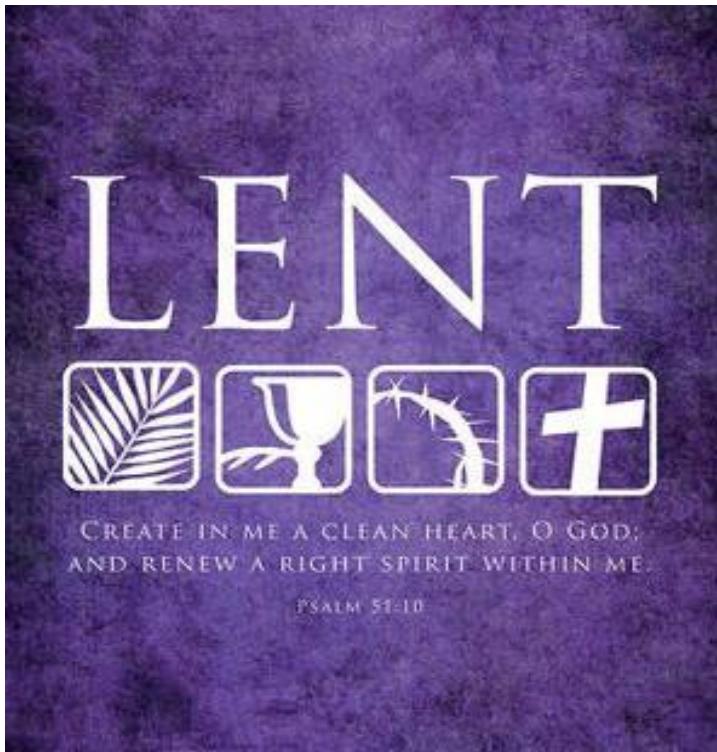




The *Pillar*  
Brecksville United Church of Christ

MARCH 2021



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

## *Pastor's Ponderings.....*

*“Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes,  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred moments so dear  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure,  
Measure a year?  
In daylights? In sunsets? In midnights? In cups of coffee?  
In inches? In miles? In laughter? In strife?  
Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes  
How do you measure a year in a life?  
How about love?”* – lyrics from “Seasons of Love”, by Jonathan Larson,  
from the musical *Rent*

Well, here we are, five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes - a year - into our pandemic closure. In March 2020 we had no idea that it would go on this long. We didn't know that many of our members or their loved ones would be stricken with this terrible disease, and that some of them would be taken. Five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred minutes later, we still find that our prayer requests are full of news about Covid. As I write this in mid-February, our previous service had 2/3 of the prayer requests dealing with the pandemic. If present trends continue, by the time you read this, the death toll in the United States will be around five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred deaths. That's one death for each minute of the last year. It's heartbreaking.

But life is about more than disease, more than closure, more than masking and isolating and staying away from each other. As the song says, it's about daylights and sunsets, and midnights and coffee. It's about laughter and strife and most of all, it's about love. Life is about so many other things than worry and fear, and at BUCC we've discovered new ways of being together, new ways of showing our love for each other and for our community.

**(continued on next page)**

## **Pastor's Ponderings** (continued)

We've found new ways to have laughter and fun, and to worship and praise, and to hold coffee hours without coffee and goodies. We Zoom with each other to keep in touch, to run meetings, to keep on track. We've had parking lot gatherings just to be with each other, outside and masked, but still sharing what's going on in our lives. We've figured out how to have music and song in our services, how to share a common loaf and wine in the Lord's Supper even when we're apart, how to make ashes for ash Wednesday at home. We've discovered some new ways of worshipping with music videos, and bulletin images, and recorded services going out to members around the country as well as at home in Brecksville. Some of our discoveries we will be happy to put back in the box to await the next pandemic, but some we will keep.

It's clear that God has been using this time to force us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to get a grasp on technology, to begin rethinking what it means to hold worship and to be church and to live for service to God and the community through Christ. We have still been welcoming new members into our fellowship, still been a blessing to our community with new outreach (like the Little Anti-Racist Library), still been feeding the hungry and touching countless other lives in five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred ways. In spite of the pandemic, BUCC has found a way to measure this year in love: love for God; love for each other; love for our community. And for that, I'm five hundred twenty five thousand six hundred times grateful to God and to all of you. I conclude as the song concludes: *"It's time now to sing out, though the story never ends. Let's celebrate, remember a year in the life of friends. Remember the love (Oh you got to, you got to remember love). Remember the love (You know that love is a gift from up above). Remember the love (Share love, give love, spreading love). Remember the love (Measure, measure your life in love). Seasons of love."*

## ***FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC***



### **FINANCE**

**ONA:** Our total contribution to the UCC's Open and Affirming Coalition for 2020 was \$446. Please don't miss the note from Andy Lang, printed in the **Spiritual Life** section on p. 5.

**CORRECTION:** In the February Pillar, it was reported that Amanda Whyte made a donation to the Christmas Fund of \$730, in honor of her father, Don Whyte. Although Amanda did make a donation in honor of Don, the \$730 amount is the total Christmas fund donation from the entire congregation. Our apologies for the mix up, and many thanks to all for your generosity!

### **OCWM**

**HUNGER MEAL:** The next hunger meal is scheduled for Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday) at Iglesia Emmanuel. Because the church kitchen is not available, this will be a "takeout" meal, and the menu is undecided until the resource person is consulted. Also, the number of meals is lower than usual, and we think this is due in large part to the absence of fellowship during the meal. More information will be forthcoming at a later date. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Bob Chandler** at **330-416-5733(cell)** or **rchandler@zoominternet.net**.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**PALM SUNDAY:** The Spiritual Life Ministry is working to get palms that we can distribute for Palm Sunday. The goal is to have them available for pickup in a bin by the back door of the church by March 21st. If you are unable to get to the church to get palms for your home, please contact Anne in the office. She will track who needs delivery and we will drop them off either Friday March 26th or Saturday March 27th. We will send out an email when the palms are available and ready for pickup.

**HOLY WEEK:** Because the choir cannot rehearse and perform together per pandemic protocol, Dave Debick will be reviewing CD recordings of BUCC Choir music from past years, and he will "extract" a few recordings for this year's services. Maundy Thursday recordings are not available, since those services were all held downstairs in Pilgrim Hall after our annual soup suppers. Dave will be recruiting a volunteer singer and/or instrumentalist for that service.

**ONA:** We received the following letter from Andy Lang, the Executive Director of the UCC's Open and Affirming Coalition:

*"To Brecksville UCC (59) & The Rev. Allan Lane:*

*There is a Nigerian proverb which says; "It is the heart that does the giving; the fingers only let go." In 2020, forty-seven congregations were recognized for adopting a covenant that fully affirms same-gender-loving, bisexual, and gender expansive people into the life and ministry of this church - during a pandemic. That is an incredible gift of the heart!*

*On behalf of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, thank you for your financial support over the past year and years!*

*Your gift has already made an impact in our efforts to continue building until we can declare that in the United Church of Christ 100% of faith communities are Open and Affirming. "*

***(continued)***

**(Letter from ONA Coalition continued)**

*“2021 will be a big year for the Coalition:*

- *In the spring, details of our Synod presence will be announced.*
- *Our weekly morning prayer and Sunday evening Taize services will continue.*
- *We have revamped our webinar series and refreshed it for a changing church.*
- *2022 will be our 50th anniversary celebration, and preparation for that historic moment will begin in the Spring.*
- *We will continue deepening our engagement and commitment to offering support to congregations, no matter where they are on their ONA journey.*

*We are so blessed to have had so many opportunities to connect with each of you this past year. Thank you again for your gifts in 2020!*

*With deep gratitude on behalf of the Leadership Team and Staff of the Coalition,*

*Andrew G. Lang  
Executive Director”*

## **COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH**

**WORSHIPPING 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.



## NOTES AND ASIDES

We received the following note from Ann Klonowski:

*"Thank you BUCC! I am absolutely overwhelmed by the outpouring of love from the BUCC community. You have so often welcomed me and made me feel as if I were a member, and for that I am always thankful. But this most recent showing of support has knocked me over! Since I got run down by that truck January 21, word spread and cards began arriving.*

*I know the power of your prayers because of two things. One is that I have made progress every day, getting stronger and more able to do more for myself. The second is that I have not fallen into a funk. I have an inclination to anxiety and depression, but I haven't even flirted with them! That's all you and the grace of God. So, many, many thanks, dear ones. I am ever grateful for your love!"*

-- Ann Klonowski (Kate's Mom and occasional rent-a-pastor)"

**FUND RAISER!** The orders are in and on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Brecksville UCC is teaming up with students in Tri-C's Culinary Arts department to roll out our first Friday Fish Meal. 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. If you're interested in lending a helping hand, please call or text **Doug Fawcett at 440-653-3572**. Thank you!



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

## **NOTES AND ASIDES (CONTINUED)**

**BLOOD DRIVE:** The Brecksville United Methodist Church is partnering with Vitalant to host a blood drive on Sunday, March 7, from 9:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The church is located at 65 Public Square in Brecksville. At this time, appointments are preferred & masks are required. Antibody screening will be conducted on every donation, and you will be notified if you have the antibodies to help patients battling COVID-19. Please eat before you donate. Remember to bring a photo ID & a list of any medications that you take. Please make an appointment & earn reward points at [Vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal](https://Vitalant.org/ohiodonorportal), group code: 4230.

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

March 5:	Dorothy Faust
March 8:	Mindy Harris-Wade
March 9:	Celia Kelly
March 12:	Benjamin Rehling
March 14:	Kate Klonowski
March 16:	Olivia Klonowski
	Spencer Whyte
March 20:	Emma Novak
March 22:	Ann Kelley
March 23:	Emily Kelly
March 24:	Kathleen Stewart
March 25:	Joe Wilson
March 28:	Kathy Pastor
March 29:	Mark Rehling
	Bill Witt
March 30:	Tia Began
	Susan Snyder

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

# CALENDAR



**Mon., MARCH 1**

**Tue., MARCH 2**

11am Pastor's Virtual  
Office Hour

**Wed., MARCH 3**

7pm SCR

**Thu., MARCH 4**

7pm Book Club

**Fri., MARCH 5**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MARCH 6**

**Sunday, MARCH 7**

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

**Mon., MARCH 8**

**Tue., MARCH 9**

11am Pastor's Virtual  
Office Hour

**Wed., MARCH 10**

7:15pm Council Mtng.

**Thu., MARCH 11**

7pm Book Club

## MARCH 2021

**Fri., MARCH 12**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MARCH 13**

**Sunday, MARCH 14**  
9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy  
10am Zoom Worship  
Service

**Mon., MARCH 15**  
**\*PILLAR DEADLINE\***

**Tue., MARCH 16**  
11am Pastor's Virtual  
Office Hour

**Wed., MARCH 17**  
St. Patrick;s Day

**Thu., MARCH 18**  
7pm Book Club

**Fri., MARCH 19**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MARCH 20**  
Vernal Equinox

**Sunday, MARCH 21**  
9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy  
10am Zoom Worship  
Service

**Mon., MARCH 22**

**Tue., MARCH 23**  
11am Pastor's Virtual  
Office Hour

**Wed., MARCH 24**

**Thu., MARCH 25**  
7pm Book Club

**Fri., MARCH 26**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Sat., MARCH 27**

**Sunday, MARCH 28**  
9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy  
10am Zoom Worship  
Service

**Mon., MARCH 29**

**Tue., MARCH 30**  
11am Pastor's Virtual  
Office Hour

**Wed., MARCH 31**



## **PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP**

### **MARCH 7, 2021**

Lay Reader: Leroy Ford  
Responder: Rose Kaval  
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris  
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski  
Zoom Host: David Pastor

### **MARCH 14, 2021**

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Responder: Jan Renovetz  
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris  
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski  
Zoom Host: Jim Duffy

### **MARCH 21, 2021**

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson  
Responder: Julie Bernard  
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris  
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski  
Zoom Host: Sue Maier

### **MARCH 28, 2021**

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

# *The Pillar*

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United Church of Christ

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## FIRST CLASS