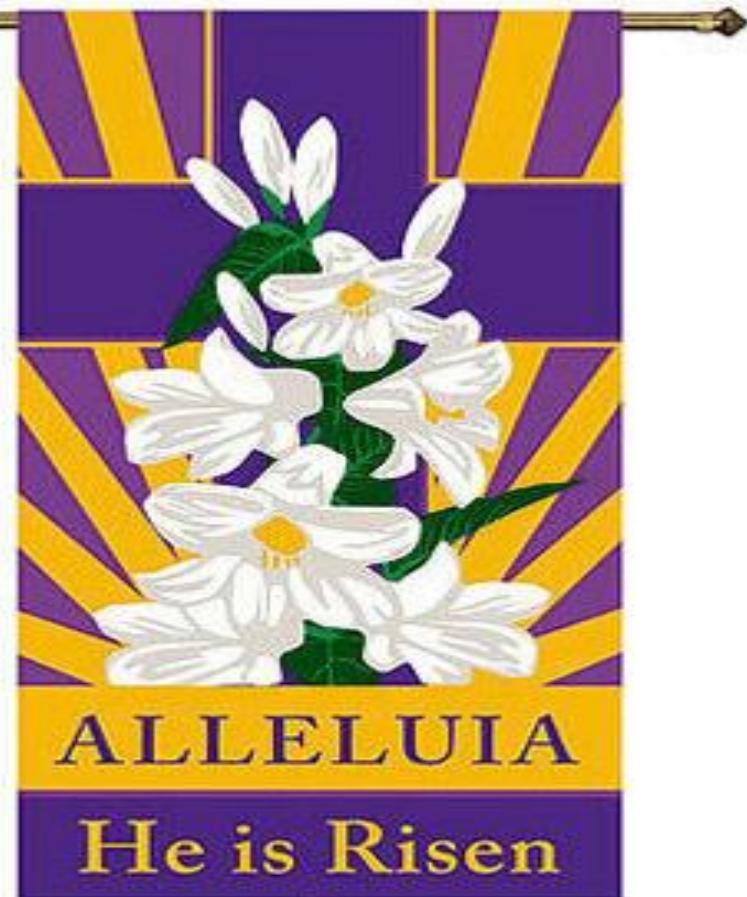




THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2021



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tunes without the words and never stops at all." Emily Dickinson

Spring is the time of hope, when the drab, barren landscape of winter gives way to the growing colors of new life. Blue robin's eggs. Brown and white dappled fawns. Purple hyacinths. Red petals and green leaves. Hope's feathers and tunes fill the air and dip and dash across the sky. The hard time is past, and something great is about to begin. The birds can't help singing about it. It's fitting that Easter falls in the springtime, because Easter is the embodiment of hope. The hard time is past, and something great is about to begin. Death, which was always hanging in the air and lurking about our future, has been swallowed up by life and spat back out, never to have the final say again. It's as if the thing we had feared the most had come, and then, quite unexpectedly and without warning, had suddenly gone again. The dragon that could not be slain is dead at last, and the village is saved.

This year I feel it deeply, the sense of the hard time ending and something great beginning. It has been a hard time this year. Death has been around us more than usual, the dragon lurking just outside our doors, keeping us penned up inside. For many, the world has shrunk to our living rooms and the closest store. For many, time has been reduced to an endless repetition of the same few things we need to do to stay alive. I've never gone so long without meeting someone new. I've never gone so long without seeing someone old. It's been mentally hard on all of us. But now that the vaccinations are getting rolled out, we can feel the burden lifting. We are free to come out, free to live again. With that second shot in our arms, many of us have been able to stop holding our breath at last and whisper to ourselves, "That's it, I'm not going to die of this. I'm going to make it. The pandemic is coming to an end." It feels like the beginning of something great.

(continued on next page)

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

I imagine the overwhelming sense of relief and excitement is something like what the disciples felt that first Easter morning. For them, too, it was the end of something hard: the ongoing conflict with the authorities and the crucifixion of Jesus. And it was the beginning of something great: the chance to tell the story of Jesus' resurrection and the end of death. The stone in front of the tomb that hemmed Jesus in gets rolled away. Jesus is free to come out from death to life, free to show himself alive to his disciples. And the disciples could say to themselves, "That's it, I'm not going to die. I'm going to make it. Death is no longer an end, the ultimate hard time. Instead, it's the beginning of something great."

We are indeed living through a time when feathered hope perches in the soul and sings its song, but this time with words: "Life has triumphed over death! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" .

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



FINANCE

FUNDRAISER: The cooking is done and the meals served and delivered! On March 5th, students from Tri-C's Culinary Arts program prepared over 300 individual meals for our "Friday Fish Meal". Along with some volunteers from the church, we served hot, take out lunches as well as 4-pack take-home and reheat packages. We had orders from 37 people. The best news is that we were able to donate meals for over 40 families, to St. Augustine Hunger Center in Tremont. We also shared our excess ingredients, which they will use in future meals. Here's the financial breakdown for the event:

\$3,605.00 - Gross Ticket sales through Eventbrite
\$3,243.75 - Net online sales after Eventbrite processing fees
\$ 180.00 - Additional Cash Sales
\$3,423.75 - Total Net Sales
\$ -932.50 - Cost of Meals (invoice from Tri-C for food and supplies)
\$2,311.25 - Funds raised for BUCC!

Thank you to all who: promoted our event, planned & ordered supplies, prepared meals, answered the phones, ran meals out to the parking lot, delivered donated food, cleaned up, and most of all purchased meals for themselves and others in need! See the article on the Website for pictures from our exciting, fun and rewarding day:

<https://brecksvilleucc.org/2021/03/10/friday-fish-meal-was-a-success/>

FINANCE (CONTINUED)



DOUBLE CASH FOR RECYCLED PAPER! Every Thursday morning, River Valley Recycling picks up our recycled paper and cardboard. On **Thursday, April 22nd**, they have offered to pay double for the contents!

We'd like to make the most of this offer, and we need your help – please consider the following:

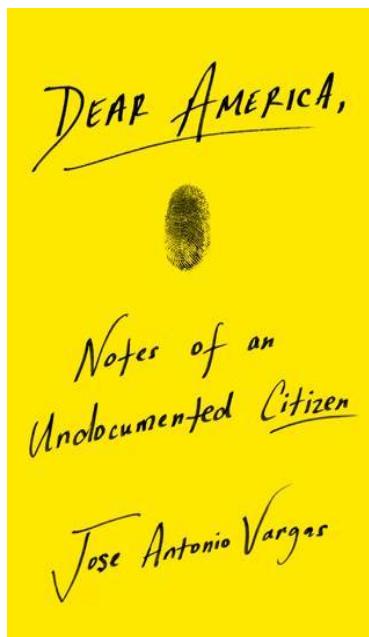
- Please save up your scraps & boxes.
- Please contact your friends & family to do the same.
- Please contact **Jim Duffy** at **216-644-2784** or jmorganduffy@gmail.com, with any questions.

Every little bit counts, and thanks in advance for your help with filling up the bin during the week of the 22nd!

OCWM

HUNGER MEAL: The next hunger meal is scheduled for Sunday, April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday) at Iglesia Emmanuel. As the church is still locked down, a “takeaway” menu is planned - sandwiches and sides will be packed into a plastic bag and distributed at the door. We plan to prepare 25 to 30 meals, and only two or three BUCC people will be needed to prepare and hand out the meal. The next hunger meal after that is scheduled for Sunday, August 22nd at Pearl Road United Methodist Church. The menu will be selected as the time gets nearer, as much will depend on what is happening with the coronavirus. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Bob Chandler** at **330-416-5733(cell)** or rchandler@zoominternet.net.

OCWM / CE



SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK CLUB: We're excited to announce our next selection: *Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, by Jose Antonio Vargas. We will begin on Thursday, April 8th at 7:00 pm. on the BUCC zoom. Please prepare by reading the Prologue, Note to Readers, and Part 1: Lying (pp. 1 - 43). The chapter sections within are very short, and written in a narrative, autobiographical style. Warning: you may have hard time putting it down!

Feel free to direct any questions to **Kate Klonowski** at **(216) 534-3498** or email keightykay@gmail.com.

Discussion questions will be sent out to the congregation on April 1. All are very welcome!

Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, called “the most famous undocumented immigrant in America,” tackles one of the defining issues of our time in this explosive and deeply personal call to arms.

“This is not a book about the politics of immigration. This book—at its core—is not about immigration at all. This book is about homelessness, not in a traditional sense, but in the unsettled, unmoored psychological state that undocumented immigrants like myself find ourselves in. This book is about lying and being forced to lie to get by; about passing as an American and as a contributing citizen; about families, keeping them together, and having to make new ones when you can’t. This book is about constantly hiding from the government and, in the process, hiding from ourselves. This book is about what it means to not have a home. After 25 years of living illegally in a country that does not consider me one of its own, this book is the closest thing I have to freedom.” -- Jose Antonio Vargas

SPIRITUAL LIFE



AS WE LOOK TO RE-OPEN -- AND MORE! With the availability of vaccines to all over 18 just around the corner, we can realistically start to look at opening the church back up for in-person services sometime this year. While we still don't know exactly when or what that will look like, it is fair to assume that there will be more work involved in preparing for, delivering, and cleaning up after each service.

There have also recently been some great ideas for additional special services. Well, the reality is this: **The Spiritual Life Ministry is relatively small right now and this will be quite a challenge.**

We want to be able to provide safe, in-person services, as well as continue to evolve and grow with additional specialty services. The members of the Spiritual Life Ministry are responsible for planning regular and specialty services, scheduling participants (readers, greeters, ushers, etc), setting up the church before each service, filling the role of Head Usher during the service, and cleaning up the sanctuary and narthex after service.

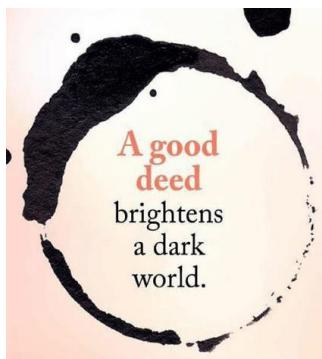
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SPIRITUAL LIFE (continued)

For specialty services, we do things like make the soup and serve for Ash Wednesdays and Maundy Thursdays, get palms for Palm Sunday, etc. If there is any aspect of this type of activity that you are willing and able to do, we could really use your help!

Please reach out to Sue Maier **Eyerienne@aol.com** or Betsey Wilson **betseywilson10@gmail.com**, so we can talk about how you can participate in this ministry and help make 2021 not just be the year we limp back into in-person services, but the year we come back stronger and better. Thank you!

STEWARSHIP



VIDEO REQUEST: The Stewardship committee is looking for anyone who wants to contribute a "Mission Moment Movie Minute" for our virtual church services. A 30-60 second video clip of anything related to mission, stewardship, giving or receiving. Make a quick video of something wonderful that someone has done for you or the community. Have your kids make a mini-movie of themselves helping a neighbor or picking up trash in the neighborhood. Or just tell us why you love the BUCC!

Send it in to the church email (**buccoh@sbcglobal.net**), and we'll put it in an upcoming virtual service – thanks in advance!

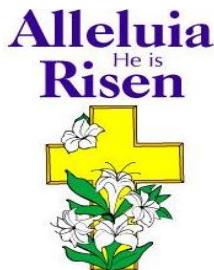
April



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

April 6:	G Wardlaw
April 9:	Arthur Cook
April 10:	Jan Wardlaw
April 12:	Sandra Rooney
April 14:	Max Roha
April 18:	Brian Esser
April 22:	Nate Hunt
	Evan Smith
	Alan Klonowski
April 27:	Rob Grow
April 29:	Sherrill Witt
	Claire Esser

***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 2021

Thu., APRIL 1

7pm Zoom Service



Fri., APRIL 2

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 3

Sunday, APRIL 4

EASTER

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy

10am Zoom Worship

Service

Mon., APRIL 5

Tue., APRIL 6

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Wed., APRIL 7

Thu., APRIL 8

7pm Book Club

Fri., APRIL 9

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 10

Sunday, APRIL 11

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy

10am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., APRIL 12

Tue., APRIL 13

RAMADAN BEGINS

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Wed., APRIL 14

7:15pm Council Mtng.

Thu., APRIL 15

7pm Book Club

PILLAR DEADLINE

Fri., APRIL 16

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 17

Sunday, APRIL 18

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy

10am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., APRIL 19

Tue., APRIL 20

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Wed., APRIL 21

Thu., APRIL 22

7pm Book Club

Fri., APRIL 23

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 24

Sunday, APRIL 25

9:30am Zoom w/ Ms. Mindy

10am Zoom Worship
Service

Mon., APRIL 26

Tue., APRIL 27

11am Pastor's Virtual
Office Hour

Wed., APRIL 28

Thu., APRIL 29

7pm Book Club

Fri., APRIL 30

OFFICE CLOSED



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 1, 2021

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Carol Miller
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Sue Maier

APRIL 4, 2021

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Responder: Janet Renovetz
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: David Pastor

APRIL 11, 2021

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Responder: Sue Stenzel
C.E. Teacher: Mindy Harris
Slide Runner: Kate Klonowski
Zoom Host: Sue Maier

APRIL 18, 2021

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

APRIL 25, 2021

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

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS