

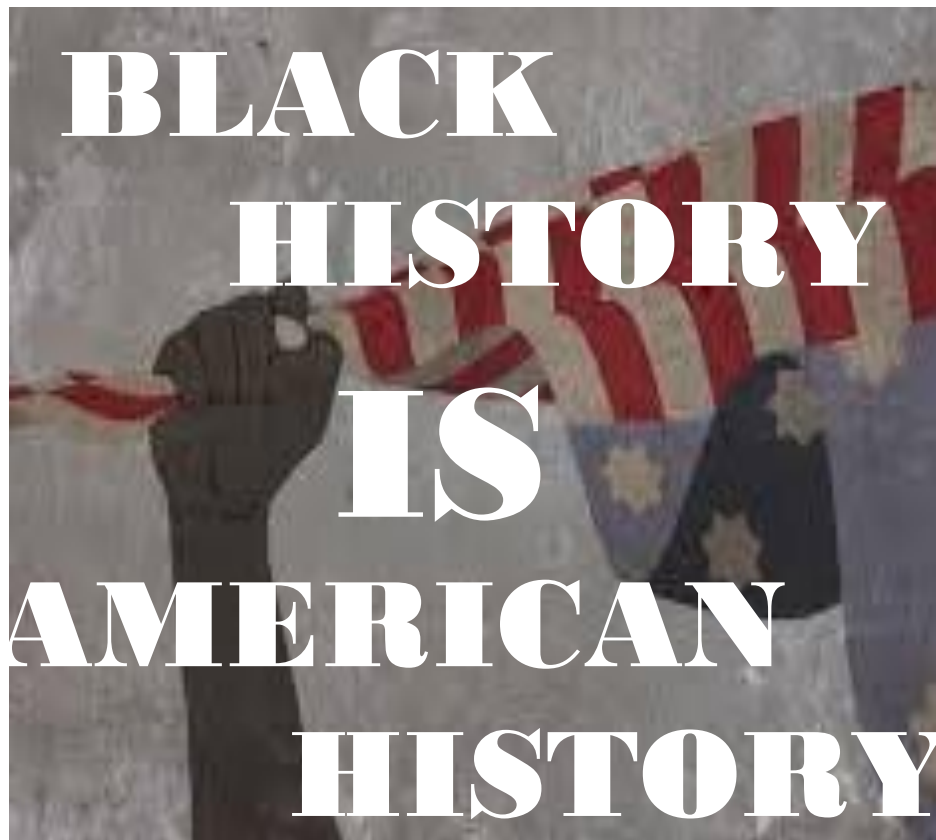


THE

BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pillar

FEBRUARY 2022



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

From Our New Pastor, John King:

I am delighted that Brecksville UCC has called me to serve as pastor. For me, it is “*a sort of homecoming*”.¹ Years ago (perhaps 2009?), my family and I joined as members of Brecksville UCC. We had two kids, Maya was in the third grade and Ian was a baby. I had stepped down from ministry to marry my wife Katie and was working as a project manager for an engineering firm. I thought I was done with ministry; I merely wanted to go to church with my family.

But I was picky. After 18 years in ministry, and with master's degrees in divinity and theology, I had some ideas of what I wanted – and didn't want – in a church. I just did not know if such a church existed. Then we found Brecksville UCC.

Other UCC congregations were closer to home. But we drove by them to go to Brecksville. That's because we were looking for a church where:

- People are more interested in following Jesus than merely praising the Lord.
- Saying “All are welcome” actually means ALL are welcome.
- People are accepted and loved, regardless of orientation, gender identity, race, abilities, etc.
- Our kids could grow up knowing that they will be loved and accepted for who they are.
- Our kids and I would learn to treat others that way.
- We explore the deeper meaning of scriptures, not merely a literal meaning.
- Diverse beliefs, thoughts and backgrounds are embraced.
- “Social justice” is not a controversial term.
- Black lives matter.
- Science is embraced.
- God's love is experienced and expressed in action.
- The sermons are inspiring, relevant, challenging, and true.

¹ OK, there is my first reference to the great rock band U2. That's going to happen a lot.

Pastor's Ponderings..... (continued)

We found that and more at Brecksville UCC. We loved this community. We felt at home. We felt welcome. We were grateful to you for that; we still are. Even as I departed Brecksville UCC to return to ministry at other UCC congregations, we dreamed of the day we might return. So yes, for me and my family, this is a homecoming. I am overjoyed.

In the weeks and months to come, we will get to know one another better. I want to meet with each one of you for a cup of coffee or whatever, just to listen. I want to learn where your spiritual journey has taken you, and what is important to you. I want to give you my cell phone and email, and I hope you feel free to contact me and communicate with me.

I am setting the goal of meeting with every one of you over the next year. Perhaps we can meet at your home, Starbucks, my office, a park – whatever is comfortable for you. I want to hear from you about your history and hopes for this congregation, and how I can best serve you as pastor. I want you to teach me how I can be a more effective pastor for you – personally – and for this congregation – communally.

It is wonderful to be home again. Now, Maya lives in Chicago and Ian is a teenager. We've journeyed far, but we will journey together. I look forward to walking alongside you once again.

Let's go. Let's grow. Let's walk the path of Jesus together.





FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

PASTORAL SEARCH MINISTRY

After many months of prayerfully reviewing a long list of candidates, it is our pleasure to welcome the Reverend John King as our settled pastor. John will officially begin his ministry at Brecksville United Church of Christ on February 1st, and will be giving his first sermon on Sunday, February 6th. His official Installation is scheduled for Sunday, February 20th.

John, his wife Katie, and son Ian reside in Broadview Heights, and their daughter Maya lives in Chicago.

In the coming weeks, the congregation will be informed as to the Pastor's office hours and contact information.

FACILITIES

A leak in our Arlington rental property was repaired by Northeast Plumbing at a cost of \$410. The old metal pipes were replaced with new PVC.

There are two remaining areas of lights that need to be converted to high efficiency LED. The two areas are the narthex and the parlor. The estimated cost is \$2600, which was provided by an electrical contractor. The cost for the conversion will be paid by using Memorial Funds (1/3), Capital Improvements (1/3) and the Facilities budget (1/3).

We will be getting estimates for parking lot repairs and paving in the next few months. The deterioration is readily noticeable in several areas. This will be a major capital improvement this year.

FINANCE

THANK YOU, JOY! More than 20 years ago, BUCC was forced to cut our staffing budget, which led to the elimination of our paid Financial Secretary position. It was a bit more than a half-time-job, for which the church paid about \$15,000 a year. This is when Joy Garapic generously and selflessly volunteered to assume the tasks of the financial secretary. Since that time, her hard work, devotion, and constant attention to her “job” has never wavered, as she worked with the numerous pastors leading our church through the succeeding years. For those of you who don’t really know what Joy does as the financial secretary, here are a some of the things she has done (and is still doing) during her “volunteer” time:

- Confidentially records contributions of members
- Provides quarterly statements of your gifts
- Ensures all your donations for the different causes are paid to the appropriate organization; considers all the groups of folks our church helps - they are numerous
- Processes the monthly payroll and pays the related payroll taxes
- Gets tough with delinquent tenants (only when she must)
- Writes many checks during the month to pay the operating expenses of the church, rental property, and CE wing
- Records a multitude of disbursements made to keep the church’s mission moving along
- Files a myriad of reports required by government agencies as well the church’s Living Water Association
- Maintains and files the financial documents required by law
- Ensures we always have enough money in our bank account to pay the bills of the church and its ministries

As a small token of our appreciation for Joy's continued time and commitment to the church, we presented her with a gift card on January 2. Thank you Joy for all your work and continued commitment. We appreciate everything you do for the church!

OCWM

LAST MINUTE MART - Thank you to all who participated in our Holiday Last Minute Mart, this past December. Whether you were a vendor, a shopper, or just shared the event and invited friends to join us, you helped contribute to a successful event. We had 18 vendors in Pilgrim Hall and a steady flow of shoppers all day long. Vendors all remarked at how nice the event was, how friendly the people at BUCC are, and let us know they are looking forward to the next one. The event raised over \$600 for The Refugee Response, a local organization that resettles families to grow roots, supporting them in becoming engaged, self-sufficient, and contributing members of their new communities. Thanks again to all who helped make this event a success!



HUNGER - Many thanks to those who have donated non-perishable food items, and please keep them coming! If you're already heading out to the grocery store, why not add an item to your list for donating? There's a basket by the church office door for collecting your non-perishable donations. Remember: Cans that don't require an opener are awesome and fragile/breakable packaging is a "no-no". Please don't forget those who are hungry, especially now that the holiday season is over. If you'd like a copy of the list of the best items to donate, contact **Anne** at the office phone number: **440-526-4364**, or by email at: **buccoffice23@gmail.com**. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

FELLOWSHIP HOUR - It seems every week the pandemic has us second guessing whether we can have a safe Fellowship Hour or not. On one hand, the Spiritual Life Ministry has been entrusted to do everything possible to protect our church family. At the same time, we acknowledge the need to learn to live with COVID as much as humanly possible. As we have done since the beginning of the pandemic, we will follow CDC guidelines and make our recommendations accordingly. Therefore, we will continue having Fellowship Hour if ALL associated volunteer slots (Snack, Server & Cleanup) are filled by WEDNESDAY at noon the week prior. If these tasks have not been claimed by Wednesday at noon, Fellowship Hour will be cancelled. This is by no means a deterrent to gathering, we just acknowledge that some people will not feel comfortable providing Fellowship Hour support, and we simply can't rely on the same folks to step up week after week. If you feel strongly about this, please don't hesitate to volunteer. Spiritual Life will continue to monitor and make recommendations monthly. As always, thank you for your support and understanding during these crazy times. -- Betsey Wilson, Spiritual Life Chair

STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Stewardship/Leadership Development Ministry would like to recognize and thank the following members for their dedicated service over the past years, especially during the unprecedented Covid pandemic. These outstanding individuals have given countless hours of time and talent as officers, chairpersons and/or council members. As they leave these positions, many of them move on to other positions within the church. Some are taking well deserved breaks from leadership. If you see them in person, give them your thanks or send them a note to let them know that they are truly appreciated by the BUCC Congregation:

Allan Lane, Interim Pastor

Heidi Spangler, Moderator

Bruce McCain, Treasurer

Sue and Cliff Stenzel, Fellowship and Receptions

David Pastor and Kathy Smith, Membership Co-Chairpersons

Doug Fawcett, Facilities Co-Chairperson

Sue Maier, Spiritual Life Co-Chairperson

GENERAL INFORMATION

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS! As we continue to deal with the limitations of a global pandemic, we don't want to miss the opportunity to extend our love to a couple of our oldest members. Even though we can't provide a cake and a party, we still want to wish a very happy birthday to Bill Toneff and Jeanne Cowden – both reaching the 103rd anniversary of their birth this month! Jeanne & Bill: We send prayers, hugs, and kisses to you “in the ether” – and thank God for continuing to bless us with your wisdom and friendship. Much love to you!

EMAIL SCAMS CONTINUE – If you receive an email claiming to be from the pastor, please check the address that it was sent from. If it's not the same as the email address given in the Sunday bulletin, **DO NOT REPLY!** And you will never receive an email from the Pastor that contains a request for money or any type of purchase on your part. Please report any such emails as "spam" (or "phishing", depending on your email provider), and then delete them. We are taking every measure to protect your email accounts. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact **Anne** at **440-526-4364** - and thank you for your patience!



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

Ian Stewart	February 02
Michelina Fawcett	February 05
Anna Mary Fisher	February 05
Julie Bernard	February 07
Marge Culver	February 08
Judi Smith	February 11
Jeanne Cowden	February 12
Cliff Stenzel	February 13
Victor Fawcett	February 22
Bill Toneff	February 22
Darlene Kelly	February 25
David Pastor	February 27
Diane Gressley	February 29

****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!***



CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2022

Tue., FEB. 1

Wed., FEB. 2

Thu., FEB. 3

Fri., FEB. 4
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 5

Sunday, FEB. 6
10am Worship Service

Mon., FEB. 7

Tue., FEB. 8

Wed., FEB. 9

Thu., FEB. 10

Fri., FEB. 11
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 12

Sunday, FEB. 13
10am Worship Service

Mon., FEB. 14

Tue., FEB. 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Wed., FEB. 16

Thu., FEB. 17

Fri., FEB. 18
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 19

Sunday, FEB. 20

10am Worship Service
& Installation
of New Pastor

Mon., FEB. 21

Tue., FEB. 22

Wed., FEB. 23

Thu., FEB. 24

Fri., FEB. 25
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., FEB. 26

Sunday, FEB. 27
10am Worship Service

Mon., FEB. 28



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Comns Grtr: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Tia Began
Snack: Evie Novak
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Comns Grtr: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: TBD
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

FEBRUARY 20, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Comns Grtr: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Jim Duffy
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: TBD
Snack: Jon Thompson
TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Snack: Sue Stenzel
TBD
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Cliff Stenzel
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel
Cliff Stenzel
Snow Herder: TBD

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

