



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2022



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Pssst. Can You Keep a Secret? I Hope Not.

When they discover the United Church of Christ, some people wonder where we've been all their lives – a church that's real, intelligent, and diverse. Sometimes it feels like we're the best kept secret around. Here are five things that I love about the UCC, and why our family felt drawn to join:

Service and action

My understanding of the mission of the Church is forever marked by the poverty I saw in El Salvador. And Katie's perspective was forever changed by her service in the Peace Corps. For a church to be credible, it must exist in service to the poor and be engaged in causes of justice and peace in the world.

In the UCC we found such a church. From the Pilgrims, to the Amistad, to the abolitionist movement, to the civil rights movements, to feminism, to Black Lives Matter, environmentalism, and many more current outreach initiatives, the UCC has shown that Jesus' mission is our mission. I am proud to be actively involved in a church that lives by James 2:26, that "faith without works is dead."

Science and Faith

From the trial of Galileo to today's creationists, there's been a silly spat between faith and science. In contrast, the *2008 Pastoral Letter On Faith Engaging Science and Technology* **beautifully** states the UCC position that "Today, one of God's most provocative voices is science."

I love the wonder and beauty of the universe that surrounds us. I am fascinated by astrophysics and geology. I cannot belong to a church that would require me to check my brain at the door. So, I feel welcomed and at home in the UCC. I hunger for an authentic spirituality that is intellectually honest, morally just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually alive.

(continued)

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

I find in the UCC a community of believers that seek the revelation of a living God with honesty and integrity. Revelation is found both in the ancient manuscripts of the Bible, and in the living testament of a still-speaking God.

God Is Still Speaking

We might not have the black and white clarity of fundamentalists, but we are real. For me, bold proclamations, condemnations - even bold love - have little value unless accompanied by bold integrity. So we open our hearts and minds to hear God's voice still speaking.

Radical Hospitality

"This is my commandment, that you love one another" (**Jn 15:12**). No personal condemnation, religious ideology or doctrinal argumentation should ever supersede or delay this first and highest commandment.

The UCC was the first denomination to welcome to ordination women (in modern times), African Americans and the LGBT community. In the UCC I find a message resonating clear and wide: "No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." This radical hospitality puts the great commandment of Jesus Christ into practice in a way that is life giving, authentic and compelling.

Unity and Diversity

Jesus' prayer, "That they may all be one," (**Jn 17:21**) offers a healing challenge. The convergence of faith traditions that resulted in the 1957 formation of the UCC reflects an appreciation of the importance of Jesus prayer at that Last Supper.

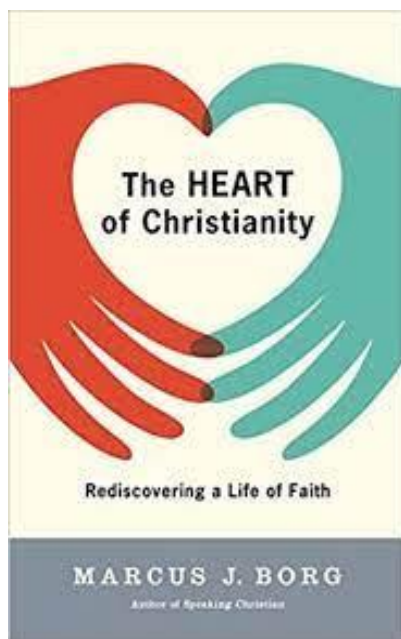
The great diversity observed in different UCC congregations testifies to the importance of lived faith experiences among diverse peoples, cultures, traditions. It shows that what distinguishes us can be beautiful, and not greater than that which unites us.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LENTEN STUDY – Pastor John is offering a six-week Lenten study of the book ***The Heart of Christianity***, by Marcus Borg. You may purchase a copy here or anywhere books are sold



Sometimes, we find that doctrines about God that we learned long ago can no longer sustain an honest faith that is real and relevant. While this leads some to reject religion, it compels others to seek a faith that is more mature - rooted in Jesus and the simple commandment to love. We will view videos presented by the author, who shows how Jesus' path can continue to guide us toward a transformational relationship with God.

So bring your curiosity and explore a spirituality that respects the heart, mind, body and soul. We'll begin Tuesday, March 8, from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. and continue for the six weeks of Lent. There will be both an in-person and remote option for this study – keep an eye on your inbox for details on how to join remotely!

FACILITIES



The hot water tank at the Arlington rental property was repaired by Northeast Plumbing, at a cost of \$1200. The tank was old and leaking.

Mattes Landscaping has been replaced as our snowplow provider. As most of you are aware they were not timely, nor did they do a very good job. We are now using Steve's Material & Supplies from Broadview Heights,

recommended by Carol Miller. They cleaned and salted the lot for \$200. Future cleaning and salting will be \$300 per visit.

FINANCE

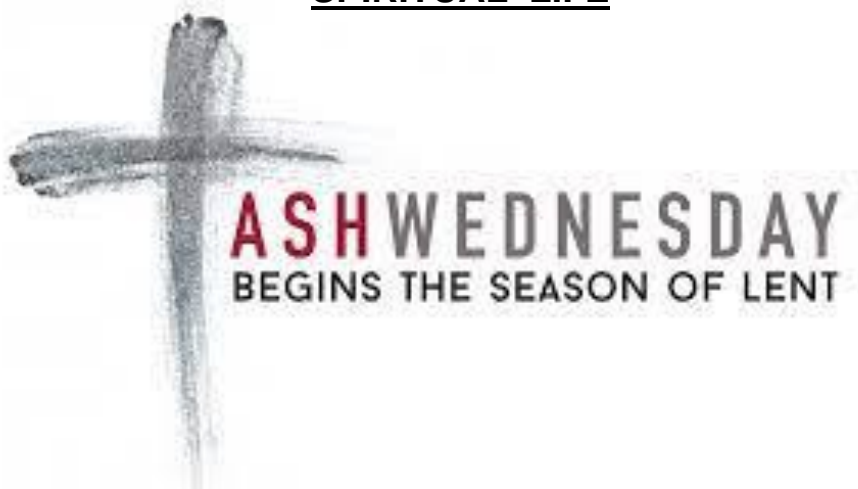
OUR GIFT - On January 30, 2022, Pastor Allan Lane's last day as interim minister at BUCC, he was given a check for \$2,935. This amount was collected from members who wanted to thank him for his 28 months of service to BUCC. We appreciate that he stayed with us as we searched for a settled pastor.



OCWM

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" -- if you'd like a copy of the list of the best items to donate, contact **Anne** at **440-526-4364**, or by email at: **buccoffice23@gmail.com**. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL LIFE



ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPER IS BACK! Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a soup supper at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2, followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 7:00. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a loaf of bread to share (those with last names beginning with N-Z will be asked to contribute bread on Maundy Thursday).

SPIRITUAL LIFE (continued)

MUSIC - Seasonal choir will begin preparing for Holy Week 2022 on Thursday March 3rd, from 7:00-7:45pm. We'll meet weekly with regular choir on Thursday nights during the season of Lent. Palm Sunday is scheduled for April 10, Maundy Thursday falls on April 14, and Easter Sunday is on April 17. Seasonal choir helps fill out and enhance the sound of our regular choir. CDs are provided for each vocal part to help make the learning process easier. Please consider joining the seasonal choir for six weeks and taking a spiritual, musical journey with us as we prepare for the sorrows, triumphs, and mysteries of Holy Week. High school students and visitors are welcome to participate. Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU - The Stewardship/Leadership Development Ministry wants to send out a very big "Thank You!", to **Doug** and **Marilyn Wrights** for their decades of service to BUCC. This dedicated couple has been quietly preparing the communion elements for us. Behind the scenes, they brought the bread and juice, prepared the Communion table, filled the plates and cups, and then washed and put it all away. We hope they can feel our deep appreciation and gratitude!

GENERAL INFORMATION

THANK YOU to the Pastor Search Team for bringing Reverend John King to BUCC as our new settled pastor. Please let these dedicated folks know how much you appreciate all the work they did over the last couple of years:

Cliff Cribbs and **Sherrill Witt** (Co-Chairs), **Beth Rehling**, **Ben Rehling**, **Jon Thompson**, **Joy Garapic** and **Alan Klonowski**.

HOLY GROUNDS – I will be at the Brecksville Panera for coffee at 8:15 most Tuesday mornings. Anyone is welcome to stop by. There's no need for an RSVP or agenda, so you never know who might show up. Of course, if you are looking for a more traditional meeting in my office you can always set that up too. But if you're just looking for casual conversation stop by at Panera any Tuesday for a visit and some "holy grounds." – Pastor John



TEXT & EMAIL SCAMS CONTINUE - If you receive a text or an email claiming to be from the pastor, please **DO NOT REPLY**. Pastor John would never send a vague or confusing text message, asking for your reply, money, a "code number" or any type of purchase on your part. Please **DO NOT REPLY** to such a text – if you're unsure, simply call the church for verification. Also, the same rules apply to emails – if you receive an email 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**. 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**. Thank you for your patience!



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

Lucy	Brown	March 03
Dottie	Faust	March 05
Mindy	Harris-Wade	March 08
Tia	Began	March 11
Benjamin	Rehling	March 12
Kate	Klonowski	March 14
Cameron	Klonowski	March 16
Spencer	Whyte	March 16
Ann	Kelley	March 22
Kathleen	Stewart	March 24
Joseph	Wilson	March 25
Kathy	Pastor	March 28
Mark	Rehling	March 29
Bill	Witt	March 29
Susan	Snyder	March 30

****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

MARCH 2022

Tue., MARCH 1

Wed., MARCH 2
ASH WEDNESDAY

 6:30pm Soup
Supper
7PM Worship
Service

Thu., MARCH 3
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

Fri., MARCH 4
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 5

Sunday, MARCH 6
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 7

Tue., MARCH 8

Wed., MARCH 9

Thu., MARCH 10
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

Fri., MARCH 11
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 12

Sunday, MARCH 13
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 14

Tue., MARCH 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Wed., MARCH 16

Thu., MARCH 17
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

Fri., MARCH 18
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 19

Sunday, MARCH 20

Mon., MARCH 21

Tue., MARCH 22

Wed., MARCH 23

Thu., MARCH 24
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

Fri., MARCH 25
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 26

Sunday, MARCH 27
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 28

Tue., MARCH 29

Wed., MARCH 30

Thu., MARCH 31
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MARCH 6, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Heidi Spangler
Jamie Tyler
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
A/V: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Snack: Heidi Spangler
Valerie Tyler
Setup/Serve: Julie Bernard
Sherrill Witt
Cleanup: Sherrill Witt
TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

MARCH 13, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evie Novak
TBD
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Evie Novak
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: TBD
Snack: Katie MacKeigan King
Setup/Serve: Katie MacKeigan King
TBD
Cleanup: Dave Bernard
Carol Miller
Snow Herder: TBD

MARCH 20, 2022

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

MARCH 27, 2022

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

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

