



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.

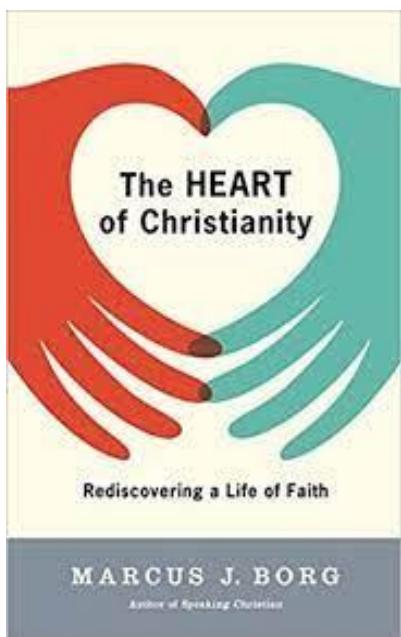


## ***FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC***

### **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

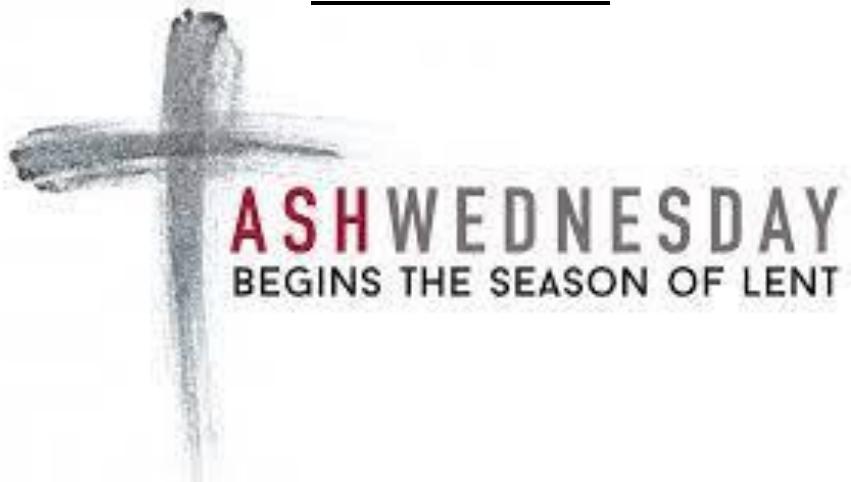
**OUR GIFT** - On January 30, 2022, Pastor Allan Lane's last day as interim minister at BUCC, he was given a check for \$2,935. This amount was collected from members who wanted to thank him for his 28 months of service to BUCC. We appreciate that he stayed with us as we searched for a settled pastor.



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

## **STEWARSHIP/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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United Church of Christ

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9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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