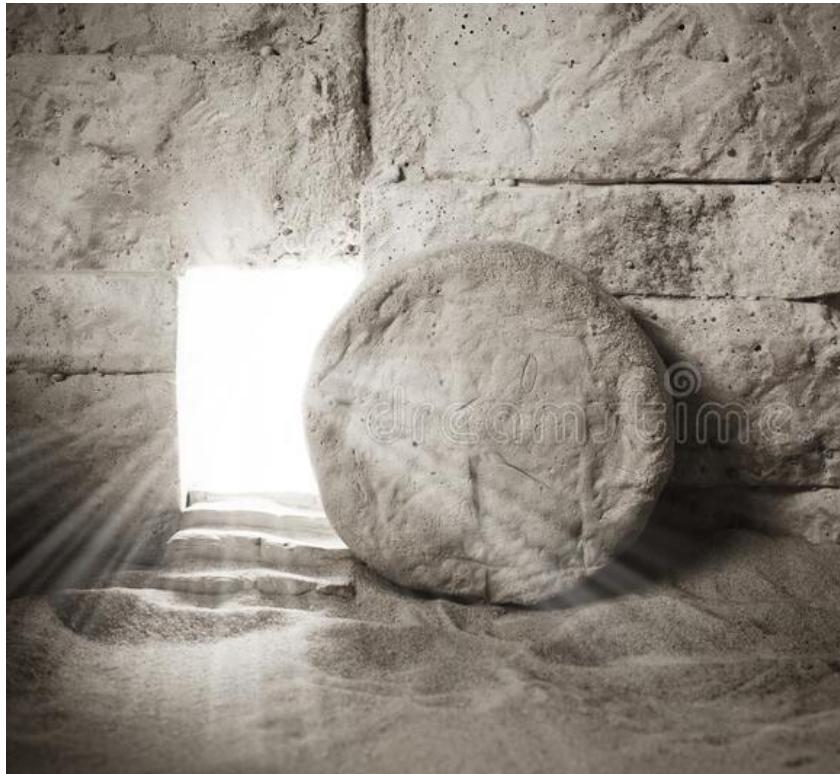




THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2022



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

April brings new life, growth and those proverbial showers that bring May flowers. April brings the Paschal Moon and the celebration of new life. Easter announces the victory of life over death and love over violence. Like the daffodils emerging from the tomb of winter, we are an emerging church.

It is lifegiving to see families return with people of all ages. When we gathered for the traditional Ash Wednesday soup and service, one person smiled and said, "Can't you just feel the place coming back to life?!" Yes, we can. Like spring, like Easter, we are emerging and coming back to life.

How exciting it will be for us to gather again for Easter and Holy Week, as a joyful resurrection people! As COVID-19 recedes in our rear-view mirror, our lives resume more familiar behaviors.

Yet in some ways, our lives are forever changed. Church Council is also recognizing ways that we can return to normal, and ways to change. BUCC Church Council decided to drop the mask mandate for in-person gatherings. Council also made some decisions about communion, which I'd like to share with you here.

BUCC Church Council decided to have communion once per month, on the first Sunday. Communion will also be shared on special days such as Christmas and Easter.

After the pandemic, it is possible that we'll never think about hygiene the same way. That influenced our discussion of "intinction" – the practice of multiple people dipping communion bread in a single chalice. Intinction is speedier than passing communion plates around the pews, but can seem a bit, well, unhygienic, especially if you're toward the end of the line. So, we've decided to try the following a "hybrid" approach to communion.

(continued)

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

When it is time to receive communion, those who are able will process forward as we've done before with intinction. But instead of intinction, each person will take a piece of bread AND pick up a small communion cup. We'll carry the bread and cup back to our pews to receive communion together.

However, if walking is at all difficult for you, please don't worry about it. You can either remain seated, and we'll bring communion to you in your pew, or you could consume communion at the front of the line instead of carrying it back to your pew. That will free your hands to provide whatever support you may prefer (cane, walker etc.) as you walk back.

St. Paul writes "we, who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:17). Communion is a rich multidimensional symbol, packed with layers of meaning. One symbolic meaning is this idea that one bread is broken and shared. Jesus took bread, broke it, blessed it and gave it to his disciples. Likewise, we are one in Christ, symbolized in one bread that is blessed, broken and shared.

The next time we gather for communion, consider this powerful symbol. As one loaf is broken and shared, we contemplate that one body, mortally wounded on Calvary, shows God's salvation for all. We are many, yet we are one in Christ. We could spend a lifetime exploring the depths of these biblical ideas. They evoke the Passover, the Exodus, liberation of the oppressed, salvation, resurrection, service, unity in diversity and so much more.

So, watch for these new practices, and let the symbols speak to you. As always, please contact me anytime and let me know what you think.

-- Peace and blessing, Pastor John



*FROM THE MINISTRIES
OF BUCC*

FACILITIES

We are in the process of replacing the light bulb in the ceiling of the portico of the rear entrance. Because they are a special type of bulb, we have to order them.

The potholes in the driveway (off 82) have been temporarily patched, thanks to Dave Bernard. The repaving of our parkng lot and driveway will be a major project after spring.

Our new snowplow service, “Steve’s Materials & Supplies” from Broadview Heights, has done an excellent job.

FINANCE

UKRAINE - On Sunday, March 6, a printed handout was distributed before church, regarding how to send funds to help people in Ukraine through the website: www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e-ukraine-emergency-appeal/. Two hundred seventy five dollars was collected from members and sent. Others contributed directly online.

OCWM

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) at BUCC is involved in multiple efforts to collaborate with and support our neighbors locally, nationally, and internationally.

Our current partnerships, activities, and beneficiaries include:

- Serving Community Meals (with a local collective of churches)
- Edna House for Women
- International Newcomers Academy
- Prentiss Autism Center (P.E.P. Day Treatment Center)
- The Refugee Response
- Sharing America's Resources Abroad (S.A.R.A.)
- Raise funds, services or collect items for individuals, families, or areas in need
- Annual "Last-Minute-Mart" during the month of December, to support a beneficiary identified by the Christian Education ministry

We also host book clubs, movie discussions, and special events surrounding issues of social justice and service. Ideas or suggestions for programming or activities are encouraged! BUCC is a "5 for 5" church, and holds annual collections for OCWM Basic Support as well as our four special mission offerings: Neighbors in Need; One Great Hour of Sharing; Strengthen the Church; and The Christmas Fund.

If you're interested in being a part of Our Church's Wider Mission, contact the office at 440-526-4364.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

COMMUNION – We will be moving to once-monthly communion, starting on April 3rd. Going forward, communion will be offered on the first Sunday of the month, in a combined intinction/traditional format. Congregants will process down the middle aisle to receive individual bread and mini-cup portions of the elements, and will return to their seats via the side aisles. We believe this to be a safe, post-pandemic plan, that will allow for a meaningful and personal communion experience. As always, ALL are welcome!

– BUCC Council

MAUNDY THURSDAY - SOUP SUPPER IS BACK! Please join us in Fellowship Hall, for a soup supper at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 14th. It will be followed by a service at 7:00 pm. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a loaf of bread to share.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE - Jesus' death on the cross is a difficult, yet central component of the Easter story. Tenebrae is an ancient service that evokes primordial emotions of our journey from the comfort of light into the fearsome shadows of death. Please gather in the sanctuary on Friday, 4/15, at 8:00pm, as we remember Jesus' death on the cross and the undying power of God's love.

EASTER SUNDAY – Please join us for a sunrise service at 6:30am on Easter morning. It will be held at the Brecksville Cemetery, on the hilltop near the stone mausoleum. In case of rain, it will be at the church. At 10am, we will have our Easter service at BUCC.

MUSIC - Holy Week this year is scheduled for April 10 (Palm Sunday) through April 17 (Easter.) The seasonal choir will be presenting special music, including a rowdy piece called ***Hosanna in the Streets***, by Pepper Choplin; a stirring anthem on Maundy Thursday titled ***Rise Again***, by Dallas Holm; and two joyous anthems on Easter: ***To God Be Joyful***, by W. A. Mozart, and ***Away with Gloom, Away with Doubt!***, by Dave Debick. We hope you'll be able to join us for these services to commemorate the mysterious, inspiring events of Holy Week. Bring a friend.

STEWARSHIP/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU - Much appreciation and many thanks to the BUCC members who jumped into action two years ago when the pandemic hit and closed the church. They got our church services onto Zoom and created a virtual church. This took so much more than just running the service on Sunday mornings. It included making the slide show and running it, setting up and running the Zoom service meetings, and social time afterwards. Also, the Breeze system was set up to help us communicate and schedule virtually. Mindy Harris-Wade led Christian Education and took care of all of Sunday school and the youth of the church. She brought them supplies and gifts, and kept them involved. As church reopened, a transition to YouTube was necessary, as was additional A/V equipment inside the church. So much technology needed to be implemented. It all has taken so much time, talent, money, resources, and love of our church to make it happen - and continue to happen - now and into the future.

Many individual members, as well as the Communications & Outreach Ministry and employees of the church, deserve our unending thanks: **Heidi Spangler, Jim Duffy, Kate Klonowski, Sue Maier, David Pastor, Mindy Harris-Wade, Tim Wallis, Allan Lane, Anne Melfo, Dave Debick, and lots of others** who helped behind the scenes or that have accidentally been left off this list. You are all appreciated!!!

THANK YOU!



GENERAL INFORMATION

FLOWERS – There is still time to order a flower dedication for Easter. The deadline is Wednesday, April 6th, and the cost is \$12.00. Your donation will buy plants that will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please either call the church office to place your order, or fill out the form at the back of the Sunday bulletin.

For our regular Sunday morning worship services, flowers in the chancel area always add a special touch. BUCC is now using the computer program, “Breeze”, for folks to sign up to support/participate during the Sunday services, with “Flowers” listed as a category. If you care to provide flowers for the service, please put your name in the flower space, for the week you would like to do it. You will be bringing in an arrangement, cut flowers or a plant, and then taking it home or giving it to someone you care about.

Dedications are handled another way. There is a calendar on the wall just inside the double doors to the narthex. Please put your name on the calendar for the date you would like, complete a dedication form (located beneath the calendar), and turn it in with your payment to Joy Garapic. A member of our flower team will have the flowers up front on the designated Sunday. You may take the flowers with you following the service. See Janet Renovetz if you have questions.

HOLY GROUNDS – Pastor John 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 office meeting 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.”





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

Arthur	Cook	April 09
Nate	Hunt	April 22
Alan	Klonowski	April 22
Rob	Grow	April 27
Stu	Bailey	April 28
Sherrill	Witt	April 29

****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 2022

Fri., APRIL 1

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 2

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 4

Tue., APRIL 5

6:45pm Lenten Book
Study

Wed., APRIL 6

Thu., APRIL 7

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:45pm Choir

Fri., APRIL 8

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 9

Sunday, APRIL 10


10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 11

Tue., APRIL 12

6:45pm Lenten Book
Study

Wed., APRIL 13

Thu., APRIL 14

MAUNDY THURSDAY
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
6:30pm Soup Supper
7pm Worship Service

Fri., APRIL 15

PILLAR DEADLINE
OFFICE CLOSED

8pm Tenebrae
Service

Sat., APRIL 16

Sunday, APRIL 17



6:30am Sunrise Service
10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 18

OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., APRIL 19

Wed., APRIL 20

Thu., APRIL 21

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., APRIL 22

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 23

Sunday, APRIL 24

10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 25

Tue., APRIL 26

Wed., APRIL 27

10am Worship Service

Thu., APRIL 28

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., APRIL 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 30



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 3, 2022

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Diane Gressley
Heidi Spangler
Setup/Serve: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 17, 2022

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

APRIL 10, 2022

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

APRIL 24, 2022

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

The Pillar

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