



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 2023



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

What's with all the Bible translations? Which one should I use? And how could anyone dare to change a single word of the Bible?

Unless we're looking at the original Hebrew or Greek, every Bible we've ever read is a translation. New discoveries sometimes reveal better understanding and nuance to ancient cryptic texts.

Moreover, English changes. Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and you have all written things in English. But the older the text is, the weirder it sounds. That's because languages continually evolve. Look at **The Canterbury Tales**; normal English from the year 1400 is nearly incomprehensible now. I just bought an updated Scrabble dictionary, which boasts new words like "emoji." Languages, like continents, gradually shift over time.

Dynamic translations convey the original meaning and feeling in language that we understand today. Literal translations very strictly translate word for word.

Here's an example: I was translating for an English-speaking visitor to El Salvador. In English, she winked, "I'm just pulling your leg!" If I translate that literally, the Salvadoran might feel defensive about their legs. A better Spanish translation is, "I'm pulling your hair." I'd say "hair" instead of "leg" because, for the listener, it's the clearest way to understand the intent of the speaker, even if using words the speaker never said. That's a dynamic translation.

Every Bible translator has a similar conundrum. An extremely literal translation would be almost incomprehensible to us. But an extremely dynamic translation gets accused of inserting words and ideas that weren't in the original.

One of my personal favorite translations is called "The Voice." The team of translators had the nerdy Greek scholars you might expect. But they also included writers of fiction, movie scripts, poets, and artists. They wanted the translation to flow easily, like a good story.

(Continued on next page)

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

The word “Christ” never appears in The Voice translation. Why? Because the Greek word, “Christos” (Χριστός) means “The Anointed.” That language meant “The Chosen One.” That’s how it sounded to the first readers of the New Testament. But to us, “Christ” sounds kind of like Jesus’s last name. It isn’t. “Jesus Christ” means “Jesus the Anointed One.” I think that’s a good translation because it is both more literal and more dynamic. It recaptures the feeling of the original Greek in an English translation. But don’t worry. “Christ” is not getting cancelled.

One matter of translation that I feel stubborn about: inclusive language. I won’t say “all men” to mean “all people.” Words create worlds. If women are supposed to be implied from “all men,” that language portrays men as the primary humans with women as secondary. Ouch. That paradigm has caused a lot of pain. I have been adamant about inclusive language since 1983 and I still am. If there is a translation that doesn’t use it, I will change it, so long as it remains faithful to the original text. Like Jesus, I am a feminist. Women’s equality is a justice issue and our words matter.

Take a look at this sample of five translations of Luke 6:31. Which do you like best?

1. KJV: “As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”
2. YLT: “As ye wish that men may do to you, do ye also to them in like manner.”
3. NRSV: “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”
4. Message: “Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!”
5. Voice: “Think of the kindness you wish others would show you; do the same for them.”

Do you have a favorite Bible translation? I care about you and what you think, so please let me know.

– Pastor John

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



FACILITIES

The carpeting in the in the sanctuary and narthex was cleaned on 3/7/23. A big thank you to all who helped remove and then bring back in the furniture, pews, etc.

A timer will be installed so that the church bell will ring automatically on Sunday mornings at 9:55.

The front and rear entrance doors are going to be painted as soon as weather permits.



This picture illustrates signage for the rear entrance to the church. It will match the signage over the front entrance. The cost of each letter is \$75. A contribution in any amount will be greatly appreciated – please be sure to designate the contribution to “Rear Signage.”

FELLOWSHIP

SAVE THE DATE - Let's Go Bowling!

When: Sunday April 30, from 1-3 pm

Where: North Woods Lanes at 10435 Valley View Road, in Macedonia

Cost: \$14.00 per person – this price includes bowling for 2 hours, shoe rental, 2 pieces of pizza per bowler, and beverages (soft drinks and water).

See David Pastor to sign up or call the church office at 440-526-4364.

OCWM

Thanks to warmer days ahead, the mitten tree in the narthex will be taken down until colder weather returns. Please continue to bring socks as we provide these donations to local shelters.

The basket next to the church office door accepts nonperishable food anytime. Several of our church members will deliver items to local shelters and food banks. And a big thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

POSTCARD WRITING CAMPAIGN - At Brecksville UCC, we are answering the call of “doing justice and seeking peace” by meeting each month to write to our legislators. Drawing on issues which have been identified by the National UCC as areas for advocacy, we’ll make our voices heard by writing. **The next session will be on Tuesday April 11 at 6:15 pm, at Panera in Brecksville.** The topic will be announced on Sunday prior to the session.



If you are unable to attend but would like to write on your own, stamped postcards will be available outside the Church office/in the lobby area for this purpose. If you have any questions or would like specifics about the issue, sample language and addresses of our legislators, please contact Ann Kelley. (You can find her contact information by logging into Breeze or by calling the church office.)

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITY – Did you know that the UCC has a *Justice and Peace Action Network*? Check out their website by clicking here: [UCC Justice and Peace Action Network](https://p2a.co/o0Ur54O) , or by typing in this website address: <https://p2a.co/o0Ur54O> . Listed there are over 30 issues on which you can take immediate action by sending emails to your Congressional Representatives and by sharing information on social media. Find an issue or issues you are passionate about and get started!

SPIRITUAL LIFE



MAUNDY THURSDAY - Please join us in Pilgrim Hall for a soup supper on Thursday, April 6. Four selections of soup will be served at 6:30 pm, followed by a service at 7:00. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a loaf of bread to share. Thank you!

GOOD FRIDAY - On April 7 at 7:30 pm, there will be a Tenebrae service. This is a meaningful reflection detailing the story of the suffering and death of Jesus from John's gospel. After each segment of the story is read, a light is extinguished. After the last reading, which confirms that Jesus had died on the cross, the last light is extinguished, and a loud sound (called *strepitus* in Latin) is made to convey the sense of total loss of God's presence and the effect of the death of Jesus on the universe.

The final story of the burial is read in near darkness. Worshipers leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the celebration of the coming Resurrection.

EASTER – In celebration of the resurrection of Christ, we will gather as one in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am, April 9, for a joyful communion service. This year there will be no sunrise service. Because we will have communion on Easter, there will be no communion on the first Sunday of April, which is Palm Sunday.

STAFF CONGREGATION RELATIONS

HEALTHY COMMUNICATION PROCEDURE – Brecksville UCC Council, at the recommendation of the Staff Congregation Relations Ministry, has committed to follow the healthy communication processes, as outlined in the UCC Booklet, ***A Sure Foundation***. What follows is a brief summary of that document:

If a member has a concern involving the pastor, a staff member, or another member of the congregation, the Staff Congregation Relations Ministry requests that you take the following steps:

1. Speak to the pastor, staff member or other congregation member directly. If you would be more comfortable, you may request that the pastor (if not involved in the concern) or a SCR ministry member join that conversation as a facilitator or holy witness.
 - If you have already spoken to the person but are dissatisfied, you may contact the Pastor (if not involved in the concern) or the SCR Ministry for further assistance with further communications.
 - If you are not comfortable speaking to the person directly, and the issue is important, then move to Step 2.
2. Put your concern in writing, date and sign it. Be specific and provide examples if possible. Forward your written concern to the Pastor (if not involved in the concern) or the Chairperson of the SCR Ministry. SCR will not accept anonymous concerns nor petitions from groups. You will receive a written acknowledgement verifying receipt of your concern and confirming that it will be discussed at the next SCR meeting, if not before.
3. The SCR ministry (including the pastor) will decide on a course of action if further action is necessary. You will be notified at the conclusion of the process and informed of the outcome.

Announcements:



FREE CONCERT! On Sunday April 16 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville United Church of Christ will host the Oberlin Jazz Quartet, from Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The ensemble members include: Max Kassoy, saxophone; Kamran Curlin, bass; Lyric Anderson, piano; and Martin Kent, drums. They will perform works by many jazz greats, including John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, and Joe Henderson. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the program. Plan on joining us in the sanctuary for a jammin' jazz session on April 16! For further info, call 440-526-4364.



FLOWERS – The following members have volunteered to provide altar flowers this month:

April 2 – Palms (Janet Renovetz)

9 – Easter flowers (Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel)

16 – Sue Stenzel

23 – Julie Bernard

30 – Anne Melfo



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

Arthur	Cook	April 09
Brian	Esser	April 18
Nate	Hunt	April 22
Alan	Klonowski	
Rob	Grow	April 27
Stu	Bailey	April 28
Claire	Esser	April 29
Sherrill	Witt	

****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 2023

Sat., APRIL 1

SUNDAY, APRIL 2



10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 3

6:30 Lenten Series

Tue., APRIL 4

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., APRIL 5

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 6

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm Soup Supper

Fri., APRIL 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Good Friday

7:30pm Tenebrae

Sat., APRIL 8

SUNDAY, APRIL 9



10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 10

OFFICE CLOSED

Tue., APRIL 11

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

6:15pm Letter Writing
(Brecksville Panera)

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., APRIL 12

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 13

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
Choir

Fri., APRIL 14

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 17

Tue., APRIL 18

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall



Wed., APRIL 19

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 20

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
Choir

Fri., APRIL 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 22

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

10am Worship Service

Mon., APRIL 24

Tue., APRIL 25

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., APRIL 26

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation

Thu., APRIL 27

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
Choir

Fri., APRIL 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., APRIL 29

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

10am Worship Service

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 2, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Shelley Novotney
Setup/Serve: Shelley Novotney
Pat Rolfe
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 9, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz &
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Snack: Jenn Elting
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 16, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 23, 2023

Head Usher: Diane Gressley
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

APRIL 30, 2023

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD

Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

The Pillar

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Brecksville

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

