



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2025



Photo By: Lori Molesky

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

One of my most poignant moments as a parent came shortly after my son was diagnosed with ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). Ian was struggling to understand what this neurodivergent condition even was. I told him that I was also ADHD; but they didn't call it that when I was a kid. They just called it "bad." But nowadays, they can treat it with medicine instead of beatings.

Ian said, "When I grow up, I want to have a kid with ADHD too." This got my attention.

"Why?" I asked.

"Because," Ian replied, "that way, when my kid is having a bad day, I can listen and tell them that I understand, the way you listen and help me."

Yeah. Sometimes that makes me cry.

I need to be a better listener. I think it's more of a struggle for those of us with ADHD. But it's a skill we can all practice and improve.

LENT

This Lent, our Sunday prayers and scriptures will invite us to "Listen." Samuel said, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Elijah listened for God in "the sound of sheer silence." How to we listen to hear God's still speaking voice? I believe that good pastoral care starts with the pastor being a better listener. How can we all be better listeners? To God? To one another?

That will be our theme for the six Sundays of Lent. Like those prophets of old, let's incline our ears to listen through all the noise, to hear one another, and perhaps hear the voice of the Spirit, gentle, powerful, and still speaking in our time.

LENTEN INTERFAITH SERIES

Listening to diverse perspectives is essential to broaden understanding and friendship. This can help us to build bridges of

understanding. With that in mind, this year, we won't do another book study in the parlor. Instead, we will travel to listen our neighbors of other religions. We will visit a different site each week. Our first visit will be to a Buddhist temple in Richfield. At each site, we will have time to learn about their history and core beliefs, we will join in prayer and song according to their tradition, and we will have time for dialogue. If you would like to register for this series, please fill out the form in the bulletin, or call the church office. Those who register will receive updates with times, dates and directions to each of the different interfaith sites.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

Rabbi Enid Lader will lead us in Passover Seder Meal at Brecksville UCC on Maundy Thursday. Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover meal, likely a Seder meal. It commemorates the liberation of Israelite slaves from Egypt, as they passed through the waters and began their journey through the desert into the Promised Land. My friend, Rabbi Lader, will guide us through this ancient Jewish tradition, while also teaching and helping us to understand. She will even teach us a bit of Hebrew and help us learn some traditional Jewish songs of worship. There are special roles for the kids too, so please be sure to bring the youngsters too. Save a space on your calendar for BUCC Seder meal, in Pilgrim Hall on April 17, at 6:30 p.m.

RETREAT

We'll gather for our church retreat on Saturday, April 5, starting at 9:30 a.m. This year, our retreat will be led by Rev. Tina Green, from Fairport Harbor United Church of Christ. Her theme will focus on building a community of kindness.

We sense our communities struggling to live with kindness. Whether at city hall, Congress, around the dinner table, or around the communion table, we strive to live with love and acceptance, while also setting safe boundaries against harmful behaviors. Pastor Tina will help us to develop skills that are rooted in Christ, and grounded in practical principles. Clear a space on your calendar for April 5. We expect to finish by 1:30 p.m.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Social Justice Ministry has invited Renee Boronka, Director of Conservation Education & Outreach at Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), to speak on April 27 about WRLC's work in the Cleveland area to protect our natural resources. In addition, BUCC is partnering with WRLC on May 10 to do the spring clean-up of the Garden of Eleven Angels, a memorial established by WRLC to commemorate the women who were murdered in the Buckeye-Shaker/Mount Pleasant area in Cleveland. More information on the Garden of Eleven Angels can be found here: [Healing and Closure Come for Imperial Ave. Residents as Garden of Eleven Angels Memorializes Lives Lost | Western Reserve Land Conservancy](#) The April Pillar will have more details about both April 27 and May 10.



Little Annie's Hope Train-

This organization is devoted to lending Northeast Ohioans in need of a helping hand while preserving their dignity and worth. We work to remove the stigma of need while remembering to see the person and not the struggle. We do this with the hope that one day those we help will be able to pass on the gift.

Over the next several weeks you will see a box on the pew bench at the parking lot entrance door. Below are several items that you can place in or beside the box and Claudia Griesmer will collect them (regularly) and deliver them to the organization.

There is also a copy of this on the pew bench
More information on the organization (including a link to their Amazon Wish List) can be found at: <https://www.littleannieshopetrain.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/LittleAnniesHopeTrain>

Blessing Bags Distributed in Homeless Camps

- Personal sized toiletries (what you get from hotel rooms)
- Travel size dental floss and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Mini hand sanitizers
- Small combs
- Chapstick
- Kleenex packets
- Individually wrapped toilet paper
- Wrapped plastic silverware (what you get with carry-out food)
- NEW adult heavy socks
- Inexpensive manual can openers
- Canned items with pull tabs (but no cream soups)

In addition Little Annie's Hope Train is also collecting items for Chemotherapy packages for Cancer Patients

Chemotherapy Packages for Cancer Patients

- Puzzle books
- Journals
- Pens
- Saltine crackers
- Ginger tea
- Spearmints
- Kleenex packets

Thank you for your generosity

MUSIC MINISTRY

Seasonal Choir will begin preparing for Holy Week on Thursday March 6 from 7:00-7:45 PM. Practices run weekly during Lent until Palm Sunday, which is scheduled for April 13. The choir will sing during these other Holy Week services: Maundy Thursday (4/17), Good Friday (4/18) and Easter Sunday (4/20).

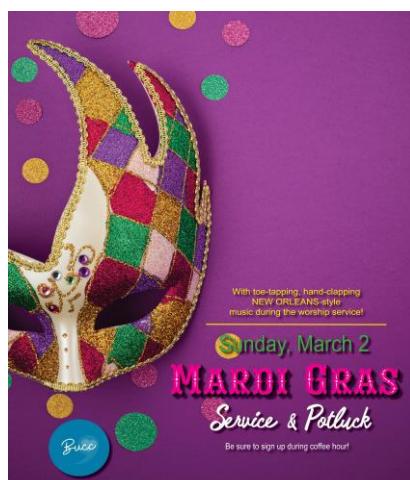
If you enjoy singing in a group setting but don't have time to commit to regular choir, seasonal choir provides a great opportunity for fellowship, good music, and spiritual preparation for the commemoration of events that are central to our Christian faith: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper; Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion and death; and his ultimate Resurrection on Easter morning. Please consider joining us on our musical/spiritual journey to Holy Week. Vocal part recordings are provided to help with the learning process. High school students are welcome to participate. Contact Dave Debick with any questions.

MUSIC MINISTRY Continued...

On Sunday April 27 at 4:00 PM, Brecksville UCC will host a free concert featuring Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus. The ensemble is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. A wide variety of styles is represented in its repertoire, focusing primarily on the role of women in society and their struggle for equality and justice. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the concert. Please mark this event on your calendar and plan on joining us for a stirring program of music! More information about this concert will be included in April's Pillar, online, and in Sunday bulletins preceding the event.



Sunday March 2 - Mardi Gras Service and Potluck. Enjoy the sounds of a Dixieland Band at our 10:00 am service immediately followed by our annual Mardi Gras potluck.



Soup Supper- Our annual Ash Wednesday soup supper will be held March 5 beginning at 6:30 with the service beginning at 7:00. We are looking for two more soups, including a vegetarian option for approximately 50 guests. An 18 bean soup has already been committed. Attendees with the last names, beginning with the letter A-L can bring bread. M-Z will bring bread for Maundy Thursday. We will have juice, soda and the usual coffee and tea to accompany the meal. Please contact David Pastor at ridave@hotmail.com or 440.552.4403 to commit to making soup or with any questions.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Offering Collection will be Sunday March 30

Be The Light -

“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives.” (Matthew 5:14-16, The Message)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women’s empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

***February's Church Attendance***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Feb-2</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>Feb-9</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>Feb-16</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>Feb-23</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Feb-Total</i>	<i>199</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>381</i>

Events:

LANTERN FELLOWSHIP WOMEN'S RETREAT
A GATHERING FOR ALL HEARTLAND CONFERENCE WOMEN!

Small World, Big Circle: Covenanting Together in Faith and Service

April 25-27, 2025

Speaker:
Rev. Jonathan Bradner



Camp Christian:
10299 Maple Dell Rd.
Marysville, OH
43040

Lantern Fellowship Women's Retreat- for more information and registration visit <https://heartlanducc.org/>



St. John's UCC Craft Show- Saturday, March 29th at St. John's UCC Massillon 101 Tremont Ave SE from 9am-3pm
Contact stjohnsuccmassillon@gmail.com or 330-833-5322 to be a vendor!



Join Us For Our Annual
St. Patrick's Day
Fundraiser

A delicious corned beef dinner,
Games of Chance, and Fellowship Await You!

Mark your calendars for Saturday March 15, 2025 from 5-8pm
Local 1005, UAW Hall 5615 Chevrolet Boulevard, Parma
as we host the biggest fundraiser of the year in support of
The Edna House for Women!

Limited Dinner Tickets Available - Don't Miss Out!
If you can't join us but want to support, consider
purchasing our Main Prize Raffle tickets
visit givebutter.com/EdnaSaves2025 or scan this QR code.





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

Mindy	Harris-Wade	March 08
Tia	Began	March 11
Benjamin	Rehling	March 12
Kate	Klonowski	March 14
Livy	Klonowski	March 16
Spencer	Whyte	March 16
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 2024

Sat., MARCH 1

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

10am Worship Service
11:30am Membership

Mon., MARCH 3

7pm Facilities

Tue., MARCH 4

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., MARCH 5

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
5pm Spiritual Life
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7pm Ash Wednesday
Service

Thu., MARCH 6

5:30pm Youth Choir
6:30pm Music Committee
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., MARCH 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 8

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 10

10am Worship Service

Tue., MARCH 11

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
6:30pm Social Justice

Wed., MARCH 12

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Council

Thu., MARCH 13

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., MARCH 14

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 15

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 17

10am Worship Service

Tue., MARCH 18

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall
7:30pm Communication &
Outreach

Wed., MARCH 19

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
6pm Braver Angels

Thu., MARCH 20

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., MARCH 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 22

4pm St. Bridget
SUNDAY, MARCH 23

10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 24

Tue., MARCH 25

8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)
6pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

Wed., MARCH 26

11am Mindfulness &
Meditation
7pm Stewardship/
Leadership

Thu., MARCH 27

5:30pm Youth Choir
7pm Adult Choir

Fri., MARCH 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., MARCH 29

SUNDAY, MARCH 30
10am Worship Service

Mon., MARCH 31

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MARCH 2, 2024

Head Usher: Annette Pedersen
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD
Communion
Bread: TBD

MARCH 9, 2024

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: Kate Matthews
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

MARCH 16, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
Acolyte: TBD
A/V: David Pastor
Flowers: Katie MacKeigan King
Snack: Jenn Elting
Setup/Serve: Jenn Elting
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD
Communion
Bread: TBD

MARCH 23, 2024

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Greeter: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Nursery Asst.: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Snack: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

March 30, 2024

Head Usher:	Jill Zedan	A/V:	TBD
Ushers:	TBD	Flowers:	TBD
Lay Reader:	Sherrill Witt	Snack:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD	Setup/Serve:	TBD
Counters:	Marge Culver Janet Renovetz	Cleanup:	TBD
Nursery Asst.:	TBD	Snow Herder:	TBD

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square
Brecksville, Ohio 44141

FIRST CLASS

Phone: 440-526-4364

E-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com

Web: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Moderator: Sherrill Witt
sherrill@mex.net

Pastor: Rev. John King
buccpastor23@gmail.com

Office Hours: (Mon. – Thu.)
9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Dir. of Music: Dave Debick
buccmusic23@gmail.com

Deadline for copy: The fifteenth
day of the month prior to
publication. Editor reserves the
right to edit for content and
space.

Financial Secy.: Joy Garapic
buccfinance23@gmail.com

Pillar Editor: Miranda Lacefield
buccoffice23@gmail.com