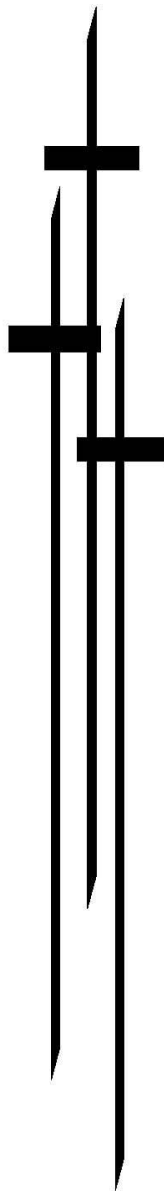


The *Pillar*

Brecksville United Church of Christ

MAY, 2015



*Loving, Serving, and Accepting All People
With God's Life-Changing Power*



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS...

***... Did I Hear That
Correctly...?***

As many of you are aware, I've recently experienced a rather sudden and sharp loss of hearing. After two separate examinations with specialists and consultation with my primary physician, I have been fitted for hearing aids, which I hope to have by the time you have this month's Pillar. It's been

strange and stressful situation, to not be able to pick-up on normal conversations. It's been frustrating to be surrounded by beautiful music, yet hear only distant and tinny tones. It was disappointing when the steroid treatment failed to work. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to anticipate that the problem can be resolved with the proper adaptive equipment.

One of my favorite expressions of the United Church of Christ's forward-thinking approach to Life and Faith is, *God Is Still Speaking...* The past few weeks, I've found myself thinking, "I'm glad that God is Still Speaking. I just hope I'll be able to keep-on hearing!" Yet as I ponder upon this, I realize that God has been communicating quite clearly and consistently throughout this challenging situation. She has offered encouragement as I've tried to discover what was happening and what the possible treatment options might be. He has helped me focus on more positive things, as well as remember that there are many other things, and people, in far worse shape. She's been patient with my impatience and frustration - calmly and clearly repeating the words I missed. He is even helping me find a gradual sense of humor and serenity about what's happening. [I've got a funny story about Closed-Captioning - for another time.]

Of course, the vast majority of this Divine Communication has been provided by the compassionate voices - and actions - of my friends and family of Brecksville United Church of Christ. This is a community of faith which not only listens for God's Still-Speaking Voice, but also articulates and embodies that message of hope, caring and love in specific and authentic ways. And as surely as the Sacred Word comes to us fully and freely, in and through the person of Jesus Christ, so have I received and experienced that Word in and through so many of you. Even when I can't hear what you're saying, your patience and kindness, caring and grace continues to speak volumes. And that's the kind of Good News that transcends any language, and even sound itself!

In and through this remarkable community of faith, you and I have so many wonderful opportunities to express the various ways in which the Holy One continues speak to us and to bless us. We can be inspired by the uplifting music of our choirs, be energized by the lively enthusiasm of our children, and be fed together through the gifts of Sacred Word and Sacrament. We can offer and receive the prayers and support needed to help us in Life's difficult and painful times. We can share together both our faith and our doubts, trusting that our Divine Source is big enough and loving enough to accept each of us wherever we happen to be on our journey. And together, we can continue to faithfully carry forward the important ministry of Christ's extravagant welcome to all.

With you in Christ's Service,
Pastor Dave

If you would like to have a pastoral visit in your home, or simply need to talk, please call Pastor Dave at the church office [440-526-4364] or at home [440-546-1193]. He will be glad to meet with you.

SIGN UP FOR UCC'S SYNOD!

Come join 450 friends you haven't met yet as we volunteer at General Synod in downtown Cleveland from June 24-30th. We need volunteers in a variety of areas and would love to use your talents.

Want to smile and greet? We need you!

Want to serve communion and usher? We need you!

Want to be a floor steward? We need you!

Want to take notes at meetings? We need you!
Want to help with kids and youth? We need you!

All volunteers receive a discount of \$190 towards synod registration. Yes, all volunteers must register for synod once they complete the volunteer sign up form. The volunteer cost for synod is \$60. Once you complete the volunteer sign up, you will receive a confirmation email which will give you your code for a synod discount.

Here's how YOU can volunteer. Go to the link:
<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=217476303>

It contains Volunteer Positions and time slots, plus registration information.

ALSO...COOKIE BAKERS NEEDED! It's been the tradition at Synod for the host Conference to serve homemade cookies. You do not need to sign up or register on-line to be a baker. If interested, please contact Cookie Coordinator: Anne McKarns at anneblc@yahoo.com.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

Spring Clean-Up Saturday Is May 2. The snow has finally melted, leaving behind winter's collection of rubbish and leftover leaves. Please consider giving an hour or a morning making the church grounds beautiful again. Work starts at 8:30 am. and continues until about 11, so come at your convenience and leave when you must. Tools are available, but your own favorite pruning equipment, leaf blower or wheelbarrow etc. would be helpful. Don't forget your work gloves. Exercise, fellowship and refreshments are provided. Children working with a parent are welcome. Please see Jane Cribbs to sign up, or simply show up on Sat. morning, May 2.

**Spring
Cleaning**

NEWS FROM OCWM



A large “Thank You” goes to all BUCC members and friends who have faithfully donated food and other items for the hunger centers, time and talent in preparing and serving hunger meals, and graciously responded to the denomination’s offering requests. This group of people has grasped the meaning of Matthew 25:40 (“as you did it to the least of these...”).

MOTHER’S DAY COLLECTION



On Sunday, May 10th, 2015, we will be collecting donations for Womankind, an organization who provides comprehensive prenatal care to pregnant women in need. Your family can pick up a baby bottle in the narthex to take home and collect loose change (or a check would be lovely!) Your financial donations go a long way:

- Every dollar donated generates four dollars in services to women in need.
- \$500 sponsors prenatal care for one mom
- \$400 provides internet access, e-mail and phone service for one month.
- \$250 supplies us with 100 pregnancy test kits
- \$100 supports one hour of counseling
- \$50 toward client educational materials

Other helpful donation items in high demand include:

- Office Max gift cards
- Giant Eagle Gift Cards
- Sam's Club gift cards
- Diapers-all sizes
- Baby Wipes

- Similac Advance with Iron (this type of formula only please)
- "Forever" postage stamps

Womankind provides all of their services at no cost to the mother. Other donations of baby clothes, maternity clothes and furniture (no toys, please!) will be collected as well.



Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions or concerns or need to arrange a large pickup, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ILCU (Intentional Loving Caring Unit)

This ministry tries to keep up with members who have had surgery, are in recovery or just can't get to our Sunday services. A note, a phone call, a prayer....a way to keep in touch and let them know we are thinking of them.



Cindy Burton, 7645 Winding Way, Brecksville, OH 44141

Mary D'Agostino, 6633 Harris Rd., Broadview Hts., OH 44147

Shirley Duncan, Summit Pointe, 9633 Valley View Rd., #2507, Macedonia, OH 44056

Bill Harris, 6818 Hidden Lake Tr., Brecksville, OH 44141

Kirk and Lee Sanderson, Chippewa Place, 7005 Stadium Pl., #222, Brecksville, OH 44141



Doris Schmid, Grande Village Suites, 2610 E. Aurora Rd., # SA24,
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Cheryl Spieth, 8977 Highland Rd., Brecksville, OH, 44141

Jan and G Wardlaw, 21838 Little Brook Way, Strongsville, OH
44149 (Jan is recovering from a recent hip replacement surgery).

If you know of someone who needs to be remembered, please give me
a call @ 330-467-9357. Thanks. Jan Renovetz.

STEWARDSHIP

DAVIDS VS GOLIATH

By: Spencer Whyte

One of the biggest issues our industrial giant of a country has had to deal with in the past 30 years, is how to balance our ever-needed, expanding industrial output and, our gloriously beautiful landscape. Our industrious, societal motto of “More, More! MORE!!” is beginning to strain our environment. It is not only us here in America, but everywhere worldwide.

The environment and how to protect and preserve it has been a driving issue for many American youth, such as the “hippies” of the 1970s or the “environmental generation” of today. Though extremists can only



see dead, rotting trees being engulfed by industrial puffs of smoke gleefully escaping brick factories overlooking streams of sludge that fill once beautiful landscapes, it is incredibly unlikely that the environment will ever get that damaged. For one, there are already many laws against the exposure of pollutants by big corporate businesses. Also there are many forests and

mountains and streams that are already protected by federal, state and local governments. However, this does not mean that we, as humans, should slowly suffocate this great and wondrous Earth we live on. There are many things we (as individuals, or as groups, such as here at BUCC) can do to help the environment.

One thing we can do is practice the 3R's. Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. I know that many of us already do this and that is fantastic. It does keep many, many items out of landfills each year. Another thing we as a church can do is set up a car pool system in hopes of reducing the amount of pollutants released by our cars. It is very difficult as a small church to tackle big environment issues such as global warming; even though the Earth naturally raises its own temperature, we as a society



**REUSE
REDUCE
RECYCLE**

certainly are helping to advance this increase. Global warming cannot be stopped by just us. (Although I would like to say this. Global warmingYeah, right! It was SUPER COLD this winter. We here in Cleveland had our coldest month of February EVER! The average temperature on a February day in 2015 was 15 degrees F! And what's even worse is that we HALVED the previous record!!) But all jokes aside, it is very difficult for us here at tiny

ol'BUCC to tackle these worldwide problems. So maybe we just handle what we can. We can reduce. We can reuse and recycle. We can think of ways to raise money or awareness for these pressing issues. We, as David, cannot defeat Goliath, worldwide environmental problems by ourselves. It just can't be done. But maybe, just maybe, if all the Davids in the world did their part and worked together maybe we could take down Goliath. If we all do our part to help this wonderfully beautiful Earth we live on, it will stay a lovely, giving breath-taking gorgeous place for humans to live on for many, many years.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

PLEASE JOIN US on Wednesday, April 29th at 7 pm for the kick-off of our new Bicentennial Ad-Hoc Ministry. We will be brainstorming ideas to make our yearlong celebration worthy of our 200 year history. If you can't make it on a Wednesday, please join us on Tuesday, May 19th at 7 pm, as we continue fleshing out what our big birthday celebration will look like. **EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!**



BICETENNIAL QUILT WORKSHOP



Sunday, May 3rd after worship in Fellowship Hall. Fabric crayons and magic markers will be available for your use. Members of the committee will be there to help you design your quilt squares.



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

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| May 5: | Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Gina Cook |
| May 7: | Lindsey Maier |
| May 10: | Fred Pesek |
| May 18: | Terry Heiman |
| May 21: | Danyel Esser
James Tyler |
| May 26: | David Ritchey |
| May 30: | Lenore Harris
Peg Duffy |
| May 31: | Bill Harris |

If you have a May Birthday and are not included above, please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC Birthday List!



THE CANNING SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!

Please return the empty canning jars, rings, and plastic lids. Do not return the metal lids. Thanks, Marianne and Mac Hoppel.



FOOD PANTRY

Infant Formula, Baby Food, and Diapers

A NOTE OF THANKS



A Million Thank-You to the cleaning angels who cleaned my classroom. A big thank-you to my "Easter Bunny" for the beautiful box of school supplies! Miss Mindy

WOMEN UNITED

We will meet on Wednesday, May 20th at 11:30 AM. Bring a sandwich and a friend. Program to be announced later, watch your Sunday Bulletin.



ALSO - On Saturday, October 17th, 2015 we will be sponsoring a "Bakery - Crafts - Lightly Used Items Sale". Said sale will be held in

Pilgrim Hall. Participation of all members of BUCC will be welcomed as proceeds will be donated to the Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Much more information later or call Dorie Gabor now (440-552-4029).

ENCORE

In the interest of space/resource conservation, we will no longer be printing an Encore Sermon.



All of Pastor Dave's Sermons are online at our Church Website and also available in the office on audio CDs for listening at home or in your car. Thank you.



Easter Flower Dedications

Anonymous

In Memory of those Lost but Never Forgotten.

The Andersons

In Honor of our Parents and Grandparents, Lenore & Bill Harris, and Barbara & Walter Anderson.

***Julie Bernard
& Linda Kriynovich***

In Memory of Tony & Julie Gorenc.

***Jane & Cliff
Cribbs***

In Honor of Loved Ones.

Dorothy Faust

In Memory of her Parents, Clinton & Caroline Tallant.

Anna Mary Fisher

In Memory of Loved Ones.

Shelly Forbes

In Memory of Grandparents, Mildred & Elmer Wright, and Parents Lucille & Benjamin

- Joy Garapic** *Forbes.
In Memory of William Garapic, Loving
Husband, Father, and Grandfather.*
- Phyllis Molnar** *In Memory of Parents Bertha & George
Ulsenheimer, and Husband Edward Molnar.*
- Dassie Matsuoka
& Daughters** *In Memory of James Matsuoka.*
- Tina Ortiz** *In Memory of Joseph, Betty & Timothy Ortiz.*
- Tina Ortiz** *In Honor of my Children, Rachel Kubic &
Dan King, My Grandchildren, Stephanie King,
Grace, Juli, and Jenna Kubic, and my Great-
Grandchildren Lyndsey & Bradly.*
- Max Roha** *In Memory of David J. Roha, Mary Roha, and
Lois Wallin.*
- Miriam L.
Rosewicz** *In Memory of Loved Ones.*
- George & Carole
Snider** *In Memory of our Parents, Mahala & George
Snider, and Betty & Bert Weale.*
- Vicki Szabo** *In Memory of Victor Szabo.*
- Jon K. Thompson** *Jesus Christ is Risen!*
- Bill & Ann Toneff** *In Memory of Vera & Milan Toneff, and
Elizabeth, and CC Thorton.*
- Bill & Ann Toneff** *In Memory of Thelma & Norman Ellsworth,
Elsie & Dwight Loughborough.*
- G & Jan
Wardlaw** *In Memory of Hubert G. Wardlaw, Sr. & Ed
Wishcamper.*

**G & Jan
Wardlaw**

***In Honor of Matt Wardlaw, Annie Zaleski,
Mike, Melanie, Evan, and Julie Merritt, and
Michelle Fung.***

Donn Whyte

In Memory of Wayne Whyte.

**Joe, Betsey, &
Drew Wilson**

***In Memory of Norinne F. Brownlow, and John
M. Brownlow, Sr.***

Sherill & Bill Witt

***In Memory of William & Mary Witt.
In Honor & Memory of Arch & Shirley
Duncan.
In Memory of Dennis Thompson.***



BUCC CALENDAR MAY, 2015

Friday, May 1

Saturday, May 2

8:30 am Spring
Clean-Up

Sunday, May 3

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, May 4

7pm Spiritual Life
7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, May 5

Wednesday, May 6

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Rec/Dul.

Thursday, May 7

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, May 8

Saturday, May 9

Sunday, May 10

10 am Worship and
Church School
***Womankind
Offering***
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, May 11

Tuesday, May 12

Wednesday, May 13

6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women
United

Parlor
7 pm Council

Thursday, May 14

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, May 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Saturday, May 16

Sunday, May 17

10 am Worship and
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, May 18

Tuesday, May 19

7 pm Bicentennial
Ministry

Wednesday, May 20

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/
Dulcimer

Thursday, May 21

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24

Pentecost

10 am Worship
Church School
11 am Coffee Hour
6pm Youth Ministry

Monday, May 25

Tuesday, May 26

Wednesday, May 27

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, May 28

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30

Sunday, May 31

Participants in Worship

MAY 3, 2015

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
 Head Usher: Evie Novak
 Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
 Sam Koch, Bridget Sproul
 Briana Brown
 Acolyte: Indira Bigelow
 Peace Candi: Kevin Smith
 Sound: Sue Stenzel
 Comns Grtr: Dorie Gabor
 Narthex Grtr: Betty Gifford
 Flowers: Kara Reese
 Nursery: Jim Kaul, Nancy Stella
 Counters: Dorie Gabor, Carole Snider
 Servers: David & Kathy Pastor
 Clean Up: Kathleen Stewart, Diane
 Snacks: Gressley

MAY 10, 2015

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
 Head Usher: Jill Zedan
 Ushers: Tim Wallis, Kim Dessofo
 George & Carole Snider
 Ben Davis
 Acolyte: Evan Merritt
 Peace Candi: Max Roha
 Sound: Kathy Pastor
 Comns Grtr: David Pastor
 Narthex Grtr: Marla Corrado
 Flowers: Marla Corrado
 Nursery: Betty Kaul, Sue Stenzel
 Counters: Dottie & Jim Farwell
 Servers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
 Clean-Up: Anne Melfo, Kate Klonowski
 Snacks:

MAY 17, 2015

Lay Reader: Kathy Smith
 Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
 Ushers: Tina Ortiz, Kate Klonowski
 Ian Stewart, Dan Stewart
 Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
 Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
 Peace Candi: Doug Fawcett
 Sound: Jim & Betty Kaul
 Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
 Narthex Grtr: Dot Bailey
 Flowers: Dot Bailey
 Nursery: Kathy Pastor

Counters: Jim Duffy, Carole Snider
 Servers: Julie Bernard, Robin Coyer-
 Westerberg
 Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
 Snacks: Marla Corrado, Beth Rehling

MAY 24, 2015

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
 Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
 Ushers: Stu & Dot Bailey
 Sue & Lindsey Maier
 Acolyte: Jillian Davis
 Peace Candle: Lucy Brown
 Sound: Dave Bernard
 Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
 Narthex Grtr: Linda Krynovich
 Flowers: Kathy Pastor
 Nursery: Peg Duffy
 Counters: Jan Renovetz, Dassie Matsuoka
 Servers: Caroline Chandler, Marge
 Culver
 Clean-Up: Jon Thompson, Jill Zedan
 Snacks: Sue Maier, Heidi Spangler

MAY 31, 2015

Lay Reader: David Pastor
 Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
 Ushers: Dorie Gabor, Joanne Cook
 David Ritchey, Heidi Spangler
 Acolyte: Grace Hunt
 Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
 Sound: David Pastor
 Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey
 Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
 Flowers: Dorie Gabor
 Nursery: Shauna Bigelow
 Counters: Stu Bailey, Kathy Pastor
 Servers: Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell
 Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
 Snacks: Tina Ortiz, Bridget Sproul

Continued next Column

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

