

Pillar

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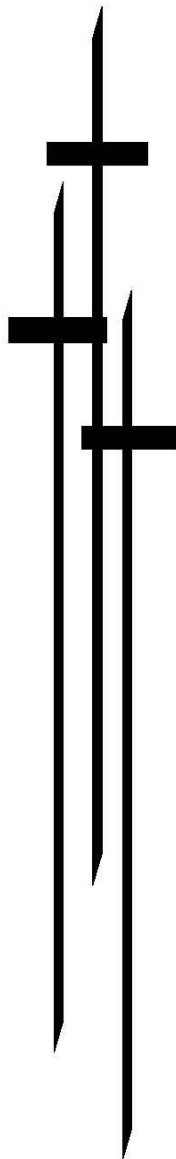
Brecksville United Church of Christ

MAY, 2016

*He Gives Everything New Life,
Renew Me Lord.*



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





*...His-tory, Her- story,
Your-story, My-story...!*

When we look at the history of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies, we discover a rich tradition of progressive thinking, social action, and a bold proclamation of the Good News of Divine Love for all people. When we look at the history of Brecksville United Church of Christ, we also see many of these same wonderful traditions and traits. Throughout its

200 years of worship and service, this community of faith has continued to seek and find new and creative ways to understand and express the Divine compassion and grace revealed in the life of Jesus Christ. And as we move into our future, we continue to carry-forward the important ministry of Christ's extravagant welcome to all people - regardless of who they are or where they are on their Life's journey.

In the Preamble of its Constitution, the United Church of Christ proudly claims the historic faith of the Christian Church, as well as embracing the importance of an on-going spirit of reformation. In this founding document, the UCC "Affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God." As a congregation of the UCC, we here at BUCC strive to take this responsibility seriously for our own generation. We try to create worship experiences which are warm and welcoming, as well as being relevant and uplifting. We celebrate our diversity of thoughts, expressions, and experiences. We share together both our faith and our doubts, trusting that our God is big enough and loving enough to accept each of us wherever we are on our own Life's journey.

The bottom line is this: Our congregation's continuing presence in this community has made - and does make - a important difference! And here's another significant thing to ponder: *Your* presence, prayers and participation at BUCC are needed to help make that difference! Together, we are a Church that has claimed a marvelous mission: ***Loving, Serving, and Accepting All People with God's Life-Changing Power!*** Personally, I can't think of a better mission to undertake; nor can I imagine better group of people to work with in tackling this tremendous task!

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.

New Members will be received at BUCC on Sunday May 22nd at our morning worship service. If you are interested in joining, learning more about membership - or about our congregation or denomination - please talk with Pastor Dave.

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES



A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who helped with Spring Clean-up and enjoyed the perfect weather on April 16.

The following electrical projects have either been completed or will be in the near future:

Relighting the parking area with new LED fixtures

Replacing the sanctuary fans.

Lighting the steeple using new LED fixtures **(continued)**

Putting in new electrical lines to light our Rt. 82 sign with LED fixtures and replacing the fixture that lights the face to the church with a LED fixture.

Reestablishing electricity to lights over the stairs from the narthex to Pilgrim Hall.

FINANCE

In March a check for \$1,304 was sent to the Western Reserve Association of the UCC for One Great Hour of Sharing. This offering goes toward emergency relief, including help for refugees. Last year's offering was \$1,057. Thank you for increasing the amount given to this important fund!



A check in the amount of \$1,148.72 was sent to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul which has taken over Brookside Food Center. \$703 of that amount was money collected by the children in Sunday School.

NEWS FROM OCWM

Members of this ministry as well as members and friends if BUCC have faithfully been continuing their mission and outreach efforts. Magically the aluminum can barrel fills and empties and food items and other toiletries and dental items appear and are delivered to Brookside and Community Corner food banks. Hunger meals are prepared and served periodically. By the time you read this, the first meal in 2016 will have been served. In June, OCWM members will meet with the other churches of the Brookside Cluster Community Meal Group to select dates of hunger meals for the last half of 2016 and the first half of 2017. Usually two dates at Bethany UCC and two dates at Pearl Road UMC are selected. The designated offerings are being supported.



In June, the Strengthen The Church offering will be received. It is rewarding to be among people who live the passage in Matthew 25.

MEMBERSHIP



Sunday May 1st will be BUCC Day at the Akron Rubber Ducks baseball game at Canal Park on Main Street in downtown Akron, only \$6 per seat. Game time 2:05 pm. Sundays are Family Fun Days at Canal Park which includes at 1:15 pm kids can catch balls in the outfield, run

in the outfield in between the 6th & 7th inning and run the bases after the game.

In the stands there will be face painting, other fun activities and as always, \$2 hot dogs and free parking in the City of Akron on weekends. Please see David Pastor to sign up or contact David at 440.552.4403 or email at ridave@hotmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP

by Betsey Wilson



Recently I was the recipient of an authentic *pay it forward* moment. On Thursdays I treat myself to a store-bought cup of coffee (in an attempt to be a good financial steward, I can only justify paying for one exorbitant cup a week!) As I pulled up to the drive-through window at Dunkin Donuts, the attendant handed me my caramel macchiato and informed me that the previous customer had paid for it. What?! I was so flustered that I thanked her and giddily drove away. Less than a mile down the road it occurred to me that I should have paid for the person's coffee behind me. Duh! No matter, that small act of kindness made me smile all day, and I vowed to follow suit the following Thursday.

The next week I was anxious to put my plan into action. I kept looking in the rearview mirror. Would you believe it, no one pulled up behind me. What are the chances at 8:45 a.m. on any given weekday?

So last Thursday I drove up and ordered my coffee, with great anticipation. An unsuspecting gentleman pulled in behind me. BINGO, target acquired! At the take-out window I paid for my beverage, then eagerly asked the attendant to add the second order to my tab. I hastily drove away. Somehow I had Matthew 6:5-6 in my mind as going right along with the whole *pay it forward* movement... *“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* I was (and am) convinced that anonymity should be part of such a covert operation. As I stopped at the nearest red light, however, my beneficiary caught up to me and beeped appreciatively. I gave an embarrassed little salute, but boy, was I grinning.

Of course, giving is always more fun than receiving, as that coffee caper sweetly reminded. Being busted didn't rob me of any of the subsequent pleasure, but I am doubly determined to make a clean get-away next time!

My stewardship take-away here is that being a *responsible* giver doesn't preclude being a *crafty, stealthy, joyous* giver. The bible documents many times when Jesus gave good and wonderful gifts, but my guess is that he also took great delight in sneaking untold and completely unwitnessed or undocumented blessings into the lives of countless strangers for which he never received an ounce of credit.

In fact, as our ultimate “*pay it forward*” champion, I'll bet you a cup of coffee he did.

NOTES AND ASIDES



BLESSINGS JAR

Thanks to Carol Van Duyne for help provided.

OUR BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK "200 YEARS OF SERVING"

The Bicentennial cookbook is now being printed by Cookbook Publishers. The cookbooks will be available for sale in Pilgrim Hall on **May 1st** during coffee hour. This will give you time to wrap for presentation on Mother's Day, May 8th. We'll also have them available for sale on the 8th and every Sunday until they all find kitchens. Each book will cost you \$10.00. That is a small price to pay for a cookbook filled with yummy recipes contributed and taste tested by members of



Brecksville United Church of Christ and their friends and families. And, by the way, as promised when this project was started, at least \$5.00 per book sold – ½ the price you pay will be given to the Bicentennial Committee to help with the costs of our bicentennial celebrations. **HAPPY MUNCHING!** *Your Cookbook Committee*

BICENTENNIAL MINISTRY



PHOTOS WANTED! Please take photos of ALL events this year so we might add them to the new pictorial directory this fall, ie. Ministry meetings, event set-up/tear down, donation delivery, hospital visits (with permission), choir practices, Sunday School classes, you get the idea! Post them on

our Facebook page, email to BetseyWilson10@gmail.com or leave hard copies in the office Attn: Bicentennial Ministry. Thank you!



FOOD PANTRY

MAY - Infant Formula, Baby Food, and Diapers

A NOTE OF THANKS



To All:

We wish to thank you for your cards, telephone calls, and mostly for all of your prayers for Jim during his time in the hospital and rehab while we were in Texas. He is recuperating at home, and we hope he soon will be able to resume his usual routines.

We have decided to sell our place in Texas so we do not chance his being ill and away from home. We will miss the warm winter, but will be happy to spend more time with all the wonderful people in this church.

Love, Jim & Betty Kaul

WOMEN UNITED

Our next meeting will be on May 18th at 11:30 am. Please bring a sandwich, coffee & tea will be provided. All are welcome!



MUSIC



Nearly 150 people attended the concert here last Sunday featuring the Brecksville Broadview Heights Community Chorus. Directed by Joy Parker, the 35-member ensemble treated the audience to beautiful settings of early American hymn tunes, folk songs and spirituals. Following the concert, a delicious reception (coordinated by Sue Stenzel) awaited the crowd. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to make this bicentennial choral celebration a success!

SUMMER MUSIC MINISTRY: During the second half of May, Dave D. will be recruiting volunteer singers and instrumentalists for BUCC's summer music ministry. If you would like to share your musical gifts with our congregation at a Sunday service over the summer, please see Dave to sign up.



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 9:	Michele Marcus
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!

BUCC CALENDAR

MAY, 2016

Sunday, MAY 1

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
2 pm Akron Rubber
Ducks Game

Monday, MAY 2

Tuesday, MAY 3

Wednesday, MAY 4

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, MAY 5

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

Friday, MAY 6

Saturday, MAY 7

Sunday, MAY 8

Mother's Day
10 am
Worship/Womankind
Cookbook Release
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, MAY 9

Tuesday, MAY 10

Wednesday, MAY 11

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer
7 pm Council

Thursday, MAY 12

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

Friday, MAY 13

Saturday, MAY 14

Sunday, MAY 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, MAY 16

Tuesday, MAY 17

Wednesday, MAY 18

6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women United
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer
7 pm Bicentennial

Thursday, MAY 19

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

Friday, MAY 20

Saturday, MAY 21

Sunday, MAY 22

10 am Worship/**New Members**
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, MAY 23

Tuesday, MAY 24

Wednesday, MAY 25

6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

Thursday, MAY 26

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

Friday, MAY 27

Saturday, MAY 28

Sunday, MAY 29

10 am Worship
Music Appreciation Sunday
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, MAY 30

Memorial Day
OFFICE CLOSED
-BUCC Sunday School in Brecksville Parade

Tuesday, MAY 31

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

MAY 1, 2016

Lay Reader: Kathy Pastor
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Darlene Kelly, Michelle Namitka
Michalina Fawcett
Acolyte: Garrett Demko
Peace Candle: Tim Wallis
Sound: Dot Bailey
Comms Grtr: Joanne Cook
Narthex Grtr: Betty Gifford
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Nancy Stella, Marge Culver
Counters: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Servers: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Clean Up: Heidi Spangler, Tia Began
Snacks:

MAY 8, 2016

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Jill Zedan, Matt Wolbert
Sue Stenzel, David Ritchey
Ryan Stewart
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Max Roha
Sound: Marge Culver
Comms Grtr: Lenore Harris
Narthex Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Flowers: Courtney Began
Nursery: Jon Thomson, Jim Duffy
Counters: Anne Melfo, Joanne Cook
Servers: David & Kathy Pastor
Clean-Up: Kathleen Stewart, Sue Maier
Snacks:

MAY 15, 2016

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Fred Pesek
Joanne Cook, Sam Koch
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Mike Westerberg
Sound: Max Roha
Comms Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Narthex Grtr: Dot Bailey
Flowers: Gina Cook
Nursery: Bruce McCain, Carole Snider
Counters: Robin Coyer-Westerberg,
Joy Garapic
Servers: Jon Thompson, Jill Zedan
Clean-Up: Peg Duffy, Kate Klonowski
Snacks:

MAY 22, 2016

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: Tina Ortiz, Jon Thompson
Bob & Caroline Chandler
Jillian Davis
Acolyte: Lucy Brown
Peace Candle: Doug Fawcett
Sound: Ann Kelley
Comms Grtr: Fred Pesek
Narthex Grtr: Jan Renovetz
Flowers: Jon Cook
Nursery: Donn Whyte, David Pastor
Counters: Carole Snider, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Clean-Up: Beth Rehling, Bridget Sproul
Snacks:

MAY 29, 2016

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Dot & Stu Bailey
George Snider, Dave Bernard
Drew Demko
Acolyte: Lily Hunt
Peace Candle: David Pastor
Sound: Carole Snider
Comms Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Narthex Grtr: Tina Ortiz
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Sue Stenzel, Jan Renovetz
Counters: Julie Bernard, Marge Culver
Servers: Anne Melfo, Doug Fawcett
Clean-Up: Betsey Wilson, Marla Corrado
Snacks:

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

