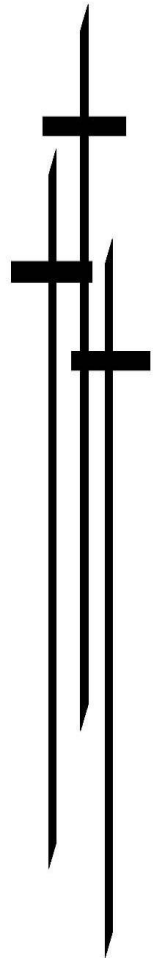


Pillar

The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

JUNE, 2016



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



...There's No Place Like Home [Days]...

On the last weekend of this month, Brecksville's annual "Home Days" will be held on the Square across from our church. Throughout the years we have had a booth at this event, with fun and games for children and informational fliers for the adults. This year, however, as part of our Bicentennial Celebration we are pulling out all the stops! On Saturday and Sunday from

1-8 pm we will have an "Open Doors-Open House" to invite people from our community to come in and sample some of the history, life and ministries that have been - and are - a part of this Family of Faith.

On display will be paintings and photos of the buildings that have housed us, some of the beautiful banners that have been created here, and of course our Bicentennial Quilt. There will be exhibits highlighting past and present ministries - like our Adopt-A-Highway Project, International Newcomers' School, S.A.R.A., Hunger Meal and Food Bank. We'll have newspaper articles and other memorabilia from the past, including the [in] Famous Fire of 1966. We will also have handouts with information about the UCC and BUCC's Extravagant Welcome to all people "Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey!"

Naturally, in order to make this warm welcome come to life for our guests, we will need the warm smiles of our members to greet them, share information, and guide them through our building. We also will need help deciding what kind of handouts we will offer, setting up our various displays, and figuring-out the best and most creative ways to let our light shine-forth throughout this event.

This year's "Home Days" presents an excellent opportunity for our 200-year-old congregation [with a 2,000-year-old Faith] to show our surrounding community that we have a message and mission that has held-up extremely well throughout Time. It's also a great opportunity to provide an open-door for others who may be looking for Church Home. Please let me know if you're interested helping with this historic event! 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

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

As a contribution to our bicentennial celebration, the Facilities Ministry has raided the attic and furnace room for artifacts saved after the tragic fire of Nov. 20, 1965 that destroyed historic 1844 church.

As you go through the doors to the Narthex, it's hard to miss the beat-up and charred pew. To the left of the pew, on the floor is the bell mount and clapper. The bell was saved by a soft landing in convenient muddy ground, and is now mounted and working in our present steeple.



Please take time to read the informative newspaper clippings Quiz question: How did the State Fire Marshal connect the church fire with robberies in the shopping center?

Other artifacts from the fire are the stained glass windows installed in the new South Entry in 2002 and a refinished pew also in the South Entry.

FINANCE



Found in the Blessings Jar -- a \$10 Giant Eagle gift card. This card was given to Pastor Dave to be used for assistance as needed.

NEWS FROM OCWM

FATHER'S DAY WOMANKIND COLLECTION JUNE 19th

In honor of fathers (and mothers!) everywhere, we are once again collecting baby items and participating in a baby bottle fundraiser for our friends at Womankind. The organization is dedicated to providing prenatal and post-natal care, post-abortion counseling, legal support, education and emotional support for women in need across the Cleveland area. We have supported their work generously in the past, and we hope to continue to be a source of support for their compassionate mission.



Starting on May 15th, there will be baby bottles available to take home with you. Please have them in your home as a reminder of helping women and their babies who aren't as fortunate to have all the resources we do. Fill those bottles with your loose change, bills, (checks!) and know that every bit is helping someone in need.

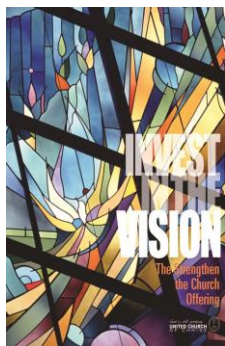
Additionally, on Father's Day (June 19th) we will be collecting those bottles along with any other donations you may have. The greatest need right now is for diapers (size 3 and 4 please!!) and wipes.



For a full list of items Womankind is seeking or to find out more about their services and mission, please see their website at <http://www.womankindcleveland.com>

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com. Thank you again, as always, for your generosity. Let's fill up that crib for Father's Day!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH



When you invest in the vision supported by **Strengthen the Church**, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and help develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults.

Support for Strengthen the Church provides the resources for new communities of faith to take root and for less fortunate churches to grow and flourish.

Strengthen the Church is part of the larger God is Still Speaking campaign of the United Church of Christ. God is Still Speaking works to spread the message that God is all-loving and inclusive to everyone, regardless of where they may be on life's journey.

Here at The Brecksville United Church of Christ we take pride in the loving, inclusive, Christian family we have built. Your support of Strengthen the Church will help other churches build similar communities. God is Still speaking, and your support of Strengthen the Church will help amplify God's voice.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Transplant Diane Gressley

I promised George that I would write about stewardship and I said that it would not be a problem because I have been a member of the United Church of Christ since the day I was born.

Actually that's not exactly true because United Church of Christ was officially formed in 1957. And for anyone who knows their church history, the UCC roots came from a combination of the Congregational and the Reformed churches that had long established histories in the Protestant movement.

However, I was born just a “few” years after that and the UCC church that my parents belonged to was still known at that time as the Reformed church.



Stewardship

a way of life

So what do I know about stewardship being a perpetual member of the UCC? I’m not even sure that we used the word stewardship in my previous church. But as I reflect on all the things that I did and the values that I was taught through the things I did I am 100% certain that many if not all of the things that we did as a church even in the 1960s and the 1970s definitely would fit the definition of stewardship or at least align quite well with being a good steward.

I really do love history and despite the fact that I may not have been in Brecksville in the 60s and 70s, the things I did in my previous UCC church, where I have been a lifelong member, were probably very similar to the things that were being done in this church at the time. I know that perfect attendance in Sunday School was a must. It was quite a big deal and we received award pins and recognition throughout the church. I really loved Sunday School and it was never really like real school because we had games and activities ... and yes, we did learn a lot about Jesus as well. Each year we had an annual Christmas and Easter program and everyone was expected to say a “piece”, which was a line of scripture or some relevant words. Memorization of these words and using the antiquated sound system often provided some great entertainment that parents, grandparents and other family members could “reminisce” about for years! Our church also held Vacation Bible School for two weeks at the end of each school year. We always had a theme and often we would focus our lessons and donate gifts that we had raised to those less fortunate in other countries or even locally. One particular year, 1972, we actually got quite involved in helping the town of Johnstown, PA that suffered significant damage from Hurricane Agnes.

I know that was when my fascination with the weather began because, as a 12 year old, I was not quite certain why we had to help other people in “far away” places when we also had experienced a lot of flood damage at our house as well. But those formative years led me to understand how despite the devastation and destruction, giving to

others and helping others was often pure joy and great fellowship. Helping others became part of my core values and led me to my career in the hospital. Without that foundation I am not certain that I would have ventured into a life in the medical world because in my sheltered circle, I did not know anything about medicine and the healthcare arena.

The Women's Guild of the church, every year during Lent season, would have 5 days of turning the Sunday School rooms upside down and have a blanket (quilt) knotting frenzy! This was one of the most exciting things we did as a church. For one entire week, we had about 8 quilt frames going from sunrise to sunset and we would knot blankets in those frames and eventually send them off to faraway places. The men of the church would always join us and does some of the work (but mostly came for the great Pennsylvania Dutch food). Those particular weeks I could not wait to get home from school and help my mom and all the ladies in the church knot hundreds of blankets. I would be very disappointed if it was too snowy to go to the church that week but when I did, I realized the impact that just one blanket, that I was helping to knot, would keep someone warm.

There were so many other things that we did as a church to take care of others and our earth. I know we would go to nursing homes and play "Bingo" and sing. It was quite amazing the reception we always got from the patients and staff. We often had bake sales to raise money for missions and trips. We would make chow chow in our fellowship hall, each year during the first week in August (Please ask me what chow chow is some day!). All the money we made from selling the chow chow would be donated to our outreach programs.

I think that the core foundation of any church includes the elements of stewardship by doing and giving to others. The lessons I learned in my very young days are what continues to bring me back to the church and programs that allow me to continue the process of doing, giving and feeling the true spirit of rejoicing. As we celebrate our 200th year here in Brecksville, I am humbled to bring my rich UCC history along for our joyous ride!

NOTES AND ASIDES

OUR BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK “200 YEARS OF SERVING”

Many of the bicentennial cookbooks have been sold. Thanks very much for your support. With Jeannette’s permission we are putting some in the church office for people to purchase during the week and on Sundays any one of the cookbook committee can get you as many cookbooks as you would like to purchase. We will also have them available for the church open house during Brecksville Home Days, June 24 – 26. They are also available for purchase on the website [www. Cookbookshoppe.com](http://www.Cookbookshoppe.com)!



BLESSING JAR



The Windows in the Sanctuary are Beautiful.

Thank you to the Facilities Ministry and Doug especially.

BOOK DISCUSSION



Book Discussion will begin the 2016 season with **“All The Light We Cannot See”**. Anthony Doerr spent 10 years writing this epic work of historical fiction, weaving together the stories of a French girl who has lost her eyesight and a German orphan as Hitler’s occupied territory grows. Both lives and families are torn, but it is the story of people who, against all odds, find good in one another. Books will be available today or check with Dot Bailey 440-526-4881. The discussion will be Monday, June 6th at 1:00 pm in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome, and everyone’s opinions matter.



FOOD PANTRY

JUNE - Powdered and Canned Milk

MUSIC

Summer Music Ministry



The volunteer schedule for this summer's music program will be emailed to each musician. A copy of the schedule can also be found at the foot of the choir loft stairs. Please contact Dave Debick with any questions.



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

June 2:	Bridget Sproul
June 4:	Lily Hunt Gail Moore
June 6:	Don Seager
June 15:	Dot Bailey Giuliana Gagliano
June 19:	Marla Corrado
June 20:	Sam Koch
June 24:	Max VanDuyne
June 25:	Carole Snider Cameron Rose Ward-Rogers Steve Albenze
June 26:	Maureen Stanley Kim Wallis
June 27:	Bruce McCain Evelyn Seager
June 29:	Jean Kukis David Wilson
Other June Birthdays:	Carli Began

BUCC CALENDAR
JUNE, 2016

Wednesday, JUNE 1

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

Thursday, JUNE 2

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, JUNE 3

Saturday, JUNE 4

Sunday, JUNE 5

10 am Worship
*Strengthen
The Church*
C.E. Sunday
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JUNE 6

7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, JUNE 7

Wednesday, JUNE 8

6 am Early Birds
7 pm Council

Thursday, JUNE 9

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, JUNE 10

Saturday, JUNE 11

Sunday, JUNE 12

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JUNE 13

Tuesday, JUNE 14

Wednesday, JUNE 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, JUNE 16

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, JUNE 17

Saturday, JUNE 18

Sunday, JUNE 19

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, JUNE 20

Tuesday, JUNE 21

Wednesday, JUNE 22

6 am Early Birds

Thursday, JUNE 23

1 pm Bible Study

Friday, JUNE 24

Brecksville Home Days

Saturday, JUNE 25

Brecksville Home Days

11am-8pm Open House

Sunday, JUNE 26

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Brecksville Home Days

1pm-8pm Open House

Monday, JUNE 27

Tuesday, JUNE 28

Wednesday, JUNE 29

Thursday, JUNE 30

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JUNE 5, 2016

Lay Reader: Dot Bailey
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Kate Klonowski,
Matt Wolbert
Vicki Szabo, Jim Duffy
Acolyte: Garrett Demko
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comms Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Carole Snider
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jon Thompson
Servers: Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs

JUNE 12, 2016

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Tim & Kim Wallis
Carole & George Snider
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Betty & Jim Kaul
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Darlene Kelly
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul

JUNE 19, 2016

Lay Reader: Stu Bailey
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: Joanne Cook
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Stu Bailey, Bruce McCain
Servers: Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Peg & Jim Duffy

JUNE 26, 2016

Lay Reader: Tina Ortiz
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Linda Kriynovich, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comms Grtr: George Snider
Narthex Grtr: Jill Zedan
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Valerie Tyler
Counters: Jim Duffy, Donn Whyte
Servers: Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Anne Melfo & Doug Fawcett

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

