

Pillar

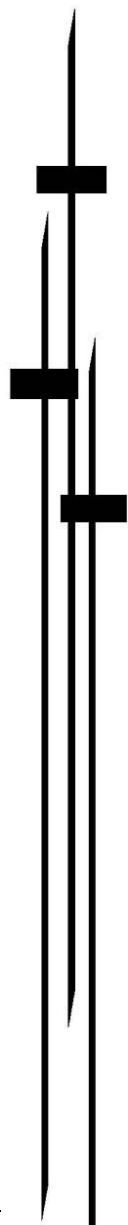
The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

September, 2016



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



Pastor's Ponderings

...It's That Time Again...

This is the time of year when many churches, including our own, kick-off their Fall programming. Summer is drawing to an end and Autumn will soon be here. To the dismay of many children, and the delight of many parents, school is back in session and it's time to get back into the swing of structured learning and set-routines. The first Sunday after Labor Day - September 11th this year - is traditionally known as "Rally Day" here at BUCC. Our Sunday School classes and choirs return to their regular schedules, and we all "Rally" together to show our enthusiasm and lend our support for the ongoing ministries and missions of our congregation.

Our Stewardship Ministry Team is starting its Fall campaign to help inspire and increase our overall support and participation in our Church's Life. O.C.W.M. - Our Church's Wider Mission Team - has scheduled 5 Hunger Meals for this coming year, and continues to oversee our involvement in a variety of service projects. Many of our volunteers have already started their work at Thomas Jefferson International Newcomers' School. [And there's still plenty of time to get involved with this ministry - Vicki Szabo can hook you up!] Our Facilities Ministry, which keeps things looking good and running smoothly here year-round, will be seeking our collective wisdom concerning the future of the house on the back of our property. And as always, the rest of our Ministry Teams and volunteers continue to help us provide many excellent programs, services and ministries through which we can actively live-out our faith.

Throughout its 200 year history, Brecksville United Church of Christ has shown a remarkable ability to rise to the changes and challenges that it faces. Its long-time commitment to issues of social justice and equality continues to be reflected in our warm welcome to all God's people, wherever that may be in their Life's journey. The openness of our members' hearts and minds helps provide a safe environment for others who are seeking a community of faith, that also allows for their questions and doubts.

We are, as some of our literature indicates, “a different kind of church” - one that emphasizes grace rather than judgment, inclusion instead of division, Divine love above religious doctrine.

Our Church has an extremely positive and important message and mission to share, particularly at a time when our society-at-large seems to be growing increasingly negative and divisive. By our working and worshipping *together*, you and I set a wonderful example and make significant difference in our community and in this world. So let's rally our energy, our resources, and ourselves, as we carry forward the work of this wonderful community of faith!

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY KICK-OFF

Sunday September 11th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. all BUCC Youth 6th grade and above are invited to gather in Pilgrim Hall for our first Fall meeting. We'll spend some time catching-up, getting to know each other, play some fun and challenging games, share some snacks and some ideas about our plans for the upcoming year. Please plan to attend and feel free to bring a friend!

When Religion and Politics Meet....

Although we have heard it said that religion and politics shouldn't mix, people of faith can and do play an important role in the public square and the political life of our nation. What might that role look like, and how can people of faith engage in the electoral and political process in a healing, respectful and responsible way? What are some of the legal guidelines for participation by people of faith? What are some of the uses and misuses of religion in political campaigns, and how can people of faith promote civil, thoughtful dialogue across differences on critical issues?

The Pillar of the Brecksville United Church of Christ

The Rev. Sandy Sorenson, from our UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, will facilitate a conversation on these timely issues, right here at Brecksville United Church of Christ on Tuesday, September 6th at 6:30 pm. We are one of four congregations hosting these gatherings on behalf of the Western Reserve and Eastern Ohio Associations of the UCC. This event will be a great opportunity to hear how other people of faith think about, deal with, and respond to these challenging political times. Please join us as we discuss a nonpartisan, justice-seeking, hope-filled way to navigate the chaotic waters of this election season - and feel free to bring a guest!

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 9TH TO DETERMINE PLAN FOR THE RENTAL HOUSE.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a congregational meeting on October 9th to plan the future course for the rental property at 7041 Arlington Street. One tenant recently moved out, and Council believes this is the proper time to decide if we should continue to rent out the house or have it demolished to make other use of the property. Members will be given opportunities to view the vacant unit before the October 9th vote.

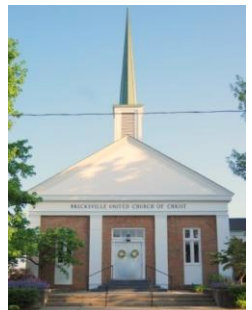
More information will follow in a mailing to each member.

FACILITIES

OUR STEEPLE IS NOW LIGHTED! Remember to take a look. A bright "Thank You" to the Bicentennial Committee and the brave electricians from Cimco Electric.

Thanks to Dave Bernard for our cleaned and painted front sign.

Our ongoing flood prevention efforts have included a larger sump pump in the elevator pit and an additional downspout on the CE wing.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Leadership Development will have recruiting stations for the ten ministries of BUCC on Sundays September 18th and 25th. Five ministries will have representatives to explain the goals and work of those ministries on the 18th, and five on the 25th. If you have wanted to be more involved in any area, please check with that representative. Your involvement in necessary and welcomed.

NEWS FROM OCWM

Usually this space talks about aluminum cans and food donations. However, this month the emphasis will be on hunger meals. As you heard during morning worship on June 26th, the chairperson of this ministry lost track of the fact that BUCC was responsible for a hunger meal that day until receiving a telephone the night before. Thanks to that resourceful resource person (Andrea), the meal was organized by her and others. The need for people to prepare and serve needed to be solved. After an appeal was made before worship, several BUCC members came to the rescue. Many thanks go to those who gave up their Sunday afternoon to provide for those less fortunate. I'm talking about Kate Klonowski and her daughters Naomi and Olivia, Annie Melfo and her children Victor and Mickey, Heidi Spangler and her niece Lucy, and Lin Kriynovich. The children worked especially hard.



Usually in June or July, the Brookside Cluster of Churches meets to select hunger meal dates for the next 12 months. This year, the meeting was held on July 12th. A sad note is that the number of churches participating is decreasing. The possibility of other groups serving as a source of help is being explored. Because of the situation, BUCC will be hosting five hunger meals between now and August 2017.

The dates are October 2, 2016, April 2, 2017, and June 4, 2017 at Bethany UCC, and December 18, 2016 and August 27, 2017 at Pearl Road UMC. As the date get closer, further detailed information will be forthcoming.

A significant change occurred last April. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has assumed oversight of the five food centers (pantries) served by the Westside Ecumenical Ministry. The literature received to date has indicated that the Society will emphasize food pantry activities. The impact on hunger meals is still under discussion.

Speaking of donated food and other items, the collection point in the upper commons at BUCC has moved about 12 feet to the basket next to the door to the church office. This is to minimize distraction from the unique quilt commemorating BUCC's 200-year existence which hangs on the wall. Also the peace pole is more visible, to remind that BUCC is a just peace church.

NOTES AND ASIDES



**Bicentennial
Celebration
OCTOBER 16, 6 PM
At Hale Farm & Village**

OUR BICENTENNIAL COOKBOOK "200 YEARS OF SERVING"



Many of the bicentennial cookbooks have been sold. Thanks very much for your support. 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. They are also available for purchase on the website [www. Cookbookshoppe.com](http://www.Cookbookshoppe.com)!

BLESSINGS JAR

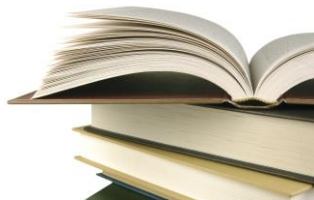
We are so thankful that the Brecksville UCC has had Betty Gifford as a member for many of her 97 years. Her support, caring, leadership, and steadying influence has been a blessing for this church.



"Found in the Blessings Jar - a \$10 Heinen's gift card, thanks to an anonymous donor".

BOOK DISCUSSION

The BUCC Book Discussion Group will meet September 12th @ 1:00 p.m. in the parlor to discuss **POSITIVE** by Paige Rawl with Ali Benjamin. It is a memoir about Paige's middle school years as a cheerleader, soccer player, and honor roll student--one of the good kids--until she naively confided to her best friend that she was HIV positive when the bullying began within hours. The memoir continues thru her high school years. She now is a college student at Ball State and an antibullying activist and HIV/AIDS educator.



Extra copies have been given to members of the congregation who are not available at discussion time but have shown an interest in this memoir. It has also been read by some of our youth members. We hope you can give us your input about how we as concerned people can support antibullying efforts.

CALENDAR

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEETINGS SCHEDULE! For the groups that meet at **BUCC** on a regular basis, please refer to the calendar on the wall in the office. There is a list of Central School events that will take place throughout the year where we will all share the parking lot, **so plan accordingly!**



FOOD PANTRY

SEPTEMBER – CEREAL

MUSIC



With Rally Day fast approaching, it's time to remind everyone about the many musical opportunities available at Brecksville UCC! Here's a brief description of each group, with starting dates and times:

Adult Choir - First rehearsal is Thurs. Sept. 8 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. The adult choir presents weekly anthems and leads the congregation's hymn singing at Sunday services. A great way to prepare spiritually for upcoming Sundays, and to experience the joys of choral singing and fellowship as we journey together through the church seasons. High school students welcome.

Joyful Noise Choir - First practice is Thurs. Sept. 8 from 5:30-6:15 p.m. K-5th graders are welcome to participate! We learn accessible songs and present music at Sunday services every 3 weeks or so. We also discuss Bible stories, the teachings of Jesus, and enjoy activities/games together as time permits.

Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble - First rehearsal is Wed. Sept. 7 from 4:30-5:00. This group presents music at services about once a month. If you'd like to learn how to play either the soprano recorder or lap dulcimer - two relatively easy instruments to play - Dave Debick is glad to provide free lessons, and instruments are available to use. Contact Dave for more info.

Youth Percussion Group - First practice is Sunday Sept. 11 from 5:30-6:00 before Youth Ministry at 6. 6th grade and older welcome, or if younger talk with Dave about joining. Practice schedule changes each month based on church calendar, so players need to check bulletin or Pillar for practice dates. We provide simple rhythmic accompaniment for prelude, offertory, postlude music as needed, and sometimes support the adult and Joyful Noise choirs when they sing. Playing percussion is wonderfully therapeutic; come and check us out! Thanks to large number of participants, players not required to be present for all practices and services when percussion is playing.

Instrumentalists - If you play an instrument and would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation at a Sunday service, please let Dave know. You could play at offertory or communion time, or Dave can write an instrumental part for you to play along with choir as appropriate. All are welcome!

Seasonal Choir - These singers help out with our Christmas cantata and/or Holy Week services. A nice choral opportunity for those who aren't able to commit to regular choir. We'll probably start rehearsing for cantata on Oct. 6; practices are on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. before regular choir starts.

Private piano lessons - These will begin on Wed. and Thurs. Sept 7 and 8. All ages are welcome. Contact Dave for more info and/or to schedule.

If you love making music and would like to share that joy with others, please consider participating in one of our musical groups.

You are welcome to sit in on a practice and see/hear how much fun we have together. Don't hesitate to contact current members or Dave with any questions or concerns.

JAZZ VESPERS - CASE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

On Sunday Oct. 30 at 4:00 p.m., BUCC will host the Case Jazz Ensemble, directed by Paul Ferguson of the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. The ensemble will play a jazz vespers service as the final free concert of our 2016 bicentennial year. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow the vespers service. More information about this event will be provided in our October Pillar.

A NOTE OF THANKS



To the Congregation,

Thank you to everyone who visited, called, sent cards, provided food, any prayed for my brother Jim Pay.

He is truly blessed to be part of a wonderful church!

Bless you all!
Jim's sister,
Laura Cunningham

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

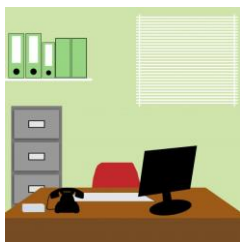
Scheduling will begin very shortly for the Bicentennial Church Photo Directory! For participating, you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and printed directory.

Portrait sessions will take place in the Parlor on September. **September 14, 15, 16 from 2- 9 and September 17 from 10-5.**



Let's make this the best/most comprehensive directory ever. It will be included in our Bicentennial Time Capsule, being buried sometime next Spring!

OFFICE

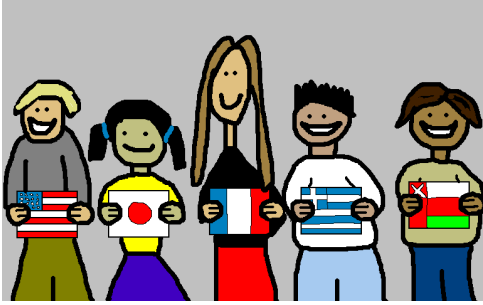


It has come to my attention that I may have the wrong Directory information for some members. If you have had a change in **address, phone number, email**, or that I may not have your **birthday** to be recognized in the **Pillar**. Please let me know so that we may be able to contact you if we need to pass out important church information.

Please call or email me at 440-526-4364, or buccoh@sbcglobal.net . Thank You! Jeannette, BUCC Office

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Many members of BUCC volunteered at the International Newcomers Academy @



Thomas Jefferson school last year. This Cleveland Metropolitan School District specialty school serves immigrant and refugee students who are new to the Cleveland area and speak no or limited English. Volunteers assist teachers by working with individual students or small

groups by reading, practicing vocabulary or math skills, and making a personal connection with a newcomer. We are always in need of caring volunteers. Won't you prayerfully consider this opportunity? Please call or see Vicki Szabo if you are interested. 216-712-7197.



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

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| September 1: | Phyllis Hassler
Dan Renovetz |
| September 3: | Joanne Cook |
| September 6: | Erika Kolar
Kirk Sanderson |
| September 7: | Betty Kaul |
| September 10: | Ryan Smith
Gabiella Gagliano |
| September 11: | Kathy Smith |
| September 12: | Jill Zedan |
| September 14: | Rebecca Anderson
Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer |
| September 15: | Jane Cribbs |
| September 17: | Natalie Corrado
Valerie Tyler
Holden Paul Esser |
| September 22: | Nancy Stella |
| September 23: | Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Matt Wolbert |
| September 26: | David Debick
Annie Demko |
| September 28: | Jayden Kolar |
| September 29: | Nichole Smith |

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

BUCC CALENDAR
SEPTEMBER, 2016

Thursday, SEPT. 1
1 pm Bible Study

Friday, SEPT. 2

Saturday, SEPT. 3

Sunday, SEPT. 4
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, SEPT. 5
7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, SEPT. 6

Wednesday, SEPT. 7
6 am Early Birds
Piano Lessons Start
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, SEPT. 8
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, SEPT. 9

Saturday, SEPT. 10

Sunday, SEPT. 11
10 am Worship/Rally
Day
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministries

Monday, SEPT. 12
7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, SEPT. 13

Wednesday, SEPT. 14
6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.
7 pm Council
2-9 pm Directory Pictures

Thursday, SEPT. 15
PILLAR DEADLINE
1 pm Bible Study
2-9 pm Directory Pictures
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, SEPT. 16
2-9 pm Directory Pictures

Saturday, SEPT. 17
10am-5 pm Directory
Pictures

Sunday, SEPT. 18
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour/
Open House

Monday, SEPT. 19

Tuesday, SEPT. 20
7 pm Bicentennial
Ministry

Wednesday, SEPT. 21
6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.

Thursday, SEPT. 22
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, SEPT. 23

Saturday, SEPT. 24

Sunday, SEPT. 25
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
**Ministries Fair/
Open House**
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministries
PH

Monday, SEPT. 25
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
6 pm Youth Ministries
PH

Tuesday, SEPT. 27

Wednesday, SEPT. 28
6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dul.

Thursday, SEPT. 29
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, SEPT. 30

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

SEPT. 4, 2016

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Stu & Dot Bailey
Kathy Pastor, Cliff Cribbs
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Chad Sproul
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Nancy Stella, David
Pastor
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Julie
Bernard
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Beth
Rehling

SEPT. 11, 2016

RALLY DAY

Lay Reader: Tina Ortiz
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Ed Lusk, Beth Rehling
Wes & Evie Novak
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Narthex Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Sue Stenzel
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Bruce McCain
Servers: Joanne Cook, Betty Kaul
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Gina Cook, Tia Began

SEPT. 18, 2016

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: David Pastor, Darlene
Kelly, Fred Pesek, Jill
Zedan
Acolyte: Carli Began
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey
Narthex Grtr: Joanne Cook
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Marge Culver, Vicki
Szabo
Clean-Up: Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks: Kate Klonowski, Marla
Corrado

SEPT. 25, 2016

Lay Reader: Sue Stenzel
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Joe & Betsey Wilson
Vicki Szabo, Diane
Gressley
Acolyte: Drew Demko
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek
Narthex Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Valerie Tyler
Counters: Donn Whyte, Stu Bailey
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Dot Bailey, Kathleen
Stewart

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

