

# *Pillar*

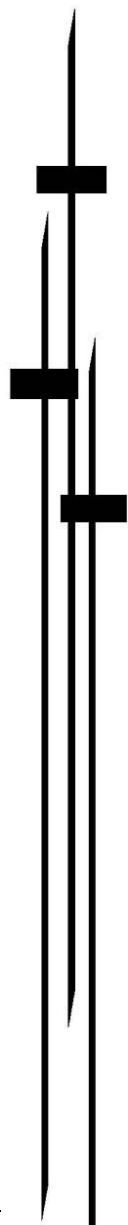
The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

*February, 2017*



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



## *Pastor's Ponderings*

*...on Celebrating Diversity...*

Once again this year, we will close-out the Epiphany Season with a "Mardi Gras" Worship Service, on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> this year, marks the beginning of the Lenten Season - a traditional time of prayer, fasting, and personal reflection. Historically, Christians celebrate one last big blow-out before that 40 day Season of solemnity begins. "Mardi Gras" [or "Fat Tuesday"] is traditionally commemorated by imbibing on savory sweets and festive foods, wearing bright clothes and bold colors, enjoying jubilant music and displaying an overall lightheartedness.

Our "Mardi Gras" event will feature all of the above, including a Dixieland Band leading us 'Saints, as we go Marching In'; plus a New Orleans-style Pot Luck Dinner after our Worship.

That Sunday we will also highlight and celebrate the United Church of Christ's historic ministry to - and with - LGBTQ people. Our guest preacher will be BUCC's good friend, Andy Lang, the Executive Director of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns - and the ONA Program. [Maybe we'll have some Alphabet Soup at our PLD - Pot Luck Dinner!] The Open and Affirming [ONA] Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community within the UCC, and helps UCC congregations bear witnesses to Christ's extravagant welcome to *all* people.

Founded in 1972 [the year the UCC ordained the first openly gay pastor in the U.S.] the Coalition helps the Church stand against the gender-based injustices that continue in many religious communities and throughout our wider society.

Equally important, the Coalition continues to help the Church stand-up and celebrate the fact that as the Body of Christ we cover a wide spectrum of shades and colors, shapes and sizes, sexual identities and expressions - with a wide variety of abilities and disabilities, strengths and weaknesses, gifts and talents.

By celebrating the beautiful diversity of the Creation, we also celebrate and honor the wonderful Creative Source Who is behind and within it all!

I hope you will all make a special effort to join us for our Mardi Gras Worship, Pot-Luck Dinner, and the special presentation by Andy Lang on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. This event can be a good reminder that every Sunday - and every day of our lives - is a celebration of Good News of Divine love and grace, revealed to us in Jesus Christ!

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**

### **FINANCE**

The collection taken for the Christmas Fund totaled \$537. A check was sent to the Western Reserve Association of the UCC. This fund is used to assist retired clergy and lay workers. It also supports an emergency fund for UCC pensioners, retired lower-income clergy and lay employees.



## MEMBERSHIP

### **“SAVE THE DATE!”**

Sunday, May 7, 2017 is BUCC Day at the Akron Rubber Ducks game at Canal Park in Akron. First pitch is 2:05 pm. Details to follow!



## NEWS FROM OCWM



As 2016 is viewed in retrospect, it is heartening to think of how many BUCC members and friends contributed to the outreach of this church. Many people helped with the hunger meals, and many more contributed aluminum cans for redemption and donated food items for the hunger centers. Also the mitten tree filled up at least three times. And people contributed to the designated offerings and participated in the Christmas gifts for the Prentiss School. Who knows how many BUCC members participate in other outreach efforts. Thank you all who did and are participating.

As far as the hunger center donations, conversations with friends who volunteer at the hunger centers have given some insight into needed items. The donated food items are appreciated. More canned fruit and canned soup would be good. Canned vegetables are not so much needed. The big overlooked items are those items not covered by food stamps – things like tooth paste and toothbrushes, personal paper goods like toilet tissue and paper towels, and items for personal hygiene such as soap and deodorant. Disposable diapers probably would be a great help as well as laundry detergents.

Thank you all who take the words of Jesus as found in Matthew 25:40 (paraphrasing – “as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me”) to heart.

## PARISH/STAFF RELATIONS - PERSONNEL



Periodically it is beneficial to take a step back and look at how we are doing as a church and obtain feedback from the congregation on how we might improve here at BUCC. The Pastor Parish and Leadership Development ministries have been working on a questionnaire to be sent out to all at the end of January 2017.

The questionnaire will be sent out via email on Monday, January 30, 2017 to those who receive email and can download and print it. Those members who do not have a computer or prefer a hard copy will have it mailed to them. A copy may also be picked up during coffee hour on January 29th.

We ask that you read it, follow directions on how to answer it, and turn it into the office no later than Sunday, February 12th.

The questionnaire does not require a signature. The results will give us an opportunity to follow up and work with the staff and ministries to better serve our church life. This report will also be available to those who wish to read it. Thank you.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

10:30AM TO 2:00 PM

JOIN WITH FELLOW MINISTRY CHAIRS, CO-CHAIRS

OFFICERS AND STAFF FOR A WORKSHOP

“BUILDING LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE”

LUNCH AND CHILD CARE PROVIDED

## NOTES AND ASIDES

### BLESSINGS JAR



“Thank you” to Women United for helping me cut out angels from recycled Christmas cards. These cards were sent to 177 Heartland Hospice patients & families. I have heard from staff they were truly appreciated.

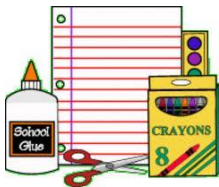
Jan Renovetz

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will be meeting Monday, Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Parlor at 1 p.m. to discuss “Still Life with Bread Crumbs” by Anna Quinlen. If you haven’t picked up your copy. They are in Joy Garapic’s Office, please sign the list and note the first 2 digits of the bar code when you take a book.



The March book should be available at the February meeting, March 6<sup>th</sup>. The book is “And After the Fire” by Lauren Belfer. It is the story of a music score illegally obtained at the end of WWII.



### FOOD PANTRY/CRAFT CUPBOARD - FEBRUARY

**Craft Cupboard** - School Supplies - Pencils, Paper, Crayons, etc.

## PLEASE HELP SHELTER DOGS & CATS, AND SMALL ANIMALS

If you are looking for somewhere to donate new (*I found Full sized comforters for \$5.99 at Marc's*) or gently used comforters, blankets, bed spreads, and towels, please consider bringing them to Jeannette at the Church Office.



I take them to the local (some not so local) animal shelters to provide comfort to the animals. I want them to be cozy while they're at the shelter!

This is ongoing; the shelters are always in need of these items.  
Jeannette, BUCC Office

*\*thank you to those who have already given me blankets & towels!\**

## MUSIC

Our Sunday February 26 service will be a special Mardi Gras celebration featuring a Dixieland jazz band playing New Orleans-style music. A smorgasbord potluck will follow in Pilgrim Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for this lively pre-Lenten tradition!



On Sunday March 26 at 4:00 PM, the **MOSA String Quartet** from the Cleveland Institute of Music will perform a free concert in our sanctuary. More information about this event will be available in the March Pillar.

## A NOTE OF THANKS



Whether you sent me a card, made a personal visit, supplied food or greeted me back at Church after my recent surgery, I was so delighted. Yes, Brecksville United Church is the best!  
Thank You All! – Dorie

## WOMEN UNITED

Next meeting will be February 15 at 11:30 am in the Parlor. Topic will be announced in the weekly Bulletin. Bring a lunch, Coffee & Tea provided. Hope to see you there!



### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Did you know that the original church building was built without a basement? When a basement was added in the early 1900's to provide Sunday school space, it was necessary to install an extensive series of pipe-pillars to support all of the existing load points. These provided places for hanging curtains to make classrooms but also a maze of obstacles used by the students as a play area. It is said that our newsletter's name is a remnant of these "pillars" of our old church building.

**The Pillar**



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

February 3:	Dave Shackle Connor Rowitz
February 5:	Anna Mary Fisher Michalina Melfo-Fawcett
February 7:	Julie Bernard
February 8:	Marge Culver
February 10:	Michelle Rogers
February 11:	Judi Smith
February 12:	Jeanne Cowden Ian Stewart
February 13:	Cliff Stenzel
February 22:	Drew Demko Garrett Demko Bill Toneff Victor Melfo-Fawcett
February 25:	Darlene Kelly
February 26:	Briana Brown Kim Stefanini
February 27:	Doug Lightbody David Pastor
February 29:	Diane Gressley

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

**BUCC CALENDAR**  
**FEBRUARY, 2017**

**Wednesday, FEB. 1**

6 am Early Birds  
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

**Thursday, FEB. 2**

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

**Friday, FEB. 3**

**Saturday, FEB. 4**

**Sunday, FEB. 5**

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

**Monday, FEB. 6**

1 pm Book Club/Parlor

**Tuesday, FEB. 7**

**Wednesday, FEB. 8**

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

**Thursday, FEB. 9**

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

**Friday, FEB. 10**

**Saturday, FEB. 11**

**Sunday, FEB. 12**

10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, FEB. 13**

**Tuesday, FEB. 14**

***Happy Valentine's Day!***

**Wednesday, FEB. 15**

**PILLAR DEADLINE**

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

**Thursday, FEB. 16**

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

**Friday, FEB. 17**

**Saturday, FEB. 18**

**Sunday, FEB. 19**

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

**Monday, FEB. 20**

**\*Office Closed\***  
**Presidents Day**

**Tuesday, FEB. 21**

**Wednesday, FEB. 22**

6 am Early Birds  
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

**Thursday, FEB. 23**

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

**Friday, FEB. 24**

**Saturday, FEB. 25**

9 am Potluck Set Up

**Sunday, FEB. 26**

10 am Worship/ONA  
Offering  
**\*MARDI GRAS**  
**POT LUCK\***  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, FEB. 27**

**Tuesday, FEB. 28**

## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

### FEB. 5, 2017

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly  
Head Usher: Bob Chandler  
Ushers: Sam Koch, Fred Pesek,  
Tim Wallis, Dave Bernard  
Jillian Davis  
Acolyte: Ben Davis  
Peace Candle: David Pastor  
Sound: Jane Cribbs  
Comms Grtr: Jill Zedan  
Narthex Grtr: Jan Renovetz  
Flowers: Courtney Began  
Nursery: Nancy Stella, Jan Renovetz  
Counters: Betty Kaul, Joy Garapic  
Servers: Jill Zedan, Lynne Struck  
Clean Up: Beth Rehling, Max Roha  
Snacks: Doug Fawcett  
Snow Herder:

### FEB. 12, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk  
Head Usher: Evie Novak  
Ushers: Jim Duffy, Darlene Kelly,  
Wes Novak, Lindsey Maier  
Grace Hunt  
Acolyte: Lilly Hunt  
Peace Candle: Doug Fawcett  
Sound: Betty Kaul  
Comms Grtr: Max Roha  
Narthex Grtr: Bettina Ortiz  
Flowers: Marla Corrado  
Nursery: Marge Culver, David Pastor  
Counters: Vicki Szabo, Julie Bernard  
Servers: Anne Melfo  
Clean-Up: Marilyn Wrights, Peg Duffy  
Snacks: Joe Wilson  
Snow Herder:

### FEB. 19, 2017

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul  
Head Usher: Jon Thompson  
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard  
Diane Gressley, David  
Ritchey  
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett  
Peace Candle: Drew Demko  
Sound: Kevin Smith  
Comms Grtr: George Snider  
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek  
Flowers: Julie Bernard  
Nursery: Gina Cook  
Counters: Bruce McCain, Carole Snider  
Servers: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel  
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler  
Snacks: Jon Thompson, Jane Cribbs  
Snow Herder: Jim Demko

### FEB. 26, 2017

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson  
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler  
Ushers: George & Carole Snider  
Chad & Bridget Sproul  
Carrie Coyer-Westerberg  
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg  
Peace Candle: Tim Wallis  
Sound: Evie Novak  
Comms Grtr: Linda Kriynovich  
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor  
Flowers: Valerie Taylor  
Nursery: Donn Whyte, Kathy Pastor  
Counters: Sue Stenzel, Joanne Cook  
Servers: *Mardi Gras*  
Clean-Up: *Potluck Committee*  
Snacks: Dan Stewart  
Snow Herder:

# *The Pillar*

is published monthly by the

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