

# *Pillar*

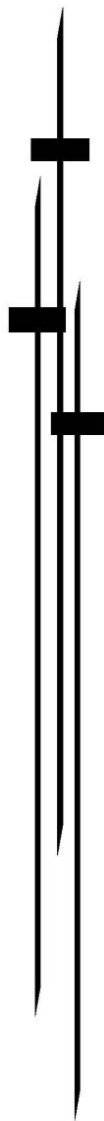
The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

**SEPTEMBER, 2017**



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



## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

### ***...on the Part we all Play...***

The first Sunday after Labor Day [September 10<sup>th</sup> this year] is known as “Rally Day” here at BUCC. It’s the day when we traditionally kick-off our Fall programming and “rally” in support of our congregation’s mission and ministries. This year we will also be introducing our “Welcome & Growth” Task-force, which was formed in response to feedback from our Congregational Survey and our “Where Do We Go from Here?” roundtable discussions. Throughout the next 12 months, this group will work with our various Ministries and members to develop and implement programs, tasks, and events specifically aimed at increasing our public visibility, welcome, outreach, and [subsequent] growth.

Although the Task-force is charged with identifying and developing ways in which we can deepen our connections with people in our wider community, it’s important to recognize that each of us has an important role in creating and maintaining those connections. Church Growth experts say that the number 1 reason people visit a congregation, and are likely to join, is because of a personal invitation from a friend or acquaintance. While some of us may be a little shy about directly inviting a friend or neighbor to join us for worship, we may feel more comfortable about asking them to help with a community project or service with which we are involved [i.e. one of our Hunger Meals].

Additionally, there are things we can do to engage others in conversation about the Church that allows them to express their thoughts or opinions, without feeling pressured or prodded. Here are a few examples:

1. We can simply ask someone if they’ve ever been involved with a church or faith community. It’s amazing how people will often go into detail about their church experiences [both the good and the bad]!
2. Ask if there are particular things that keep them from being involved with a faith community [these could either be things in their own life, or in the church as they have experienced it].

3. Ask them what kind of things a church might do to be more interesting, meaningful, or useful to their lives. [Actually, that's a pretty good question to ask ourselves, from time to time!]

While these types of conversation may initially feel a bit awkward - perhaps more so for us than for the other person - they can also be quite informative and helpful - for the other person, for ourselves, and for the church as a whole.

I'd be interested to hear about your conversations!

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.

### **WELCOME TO OUR "WELCOME & GROWTH" TASK FORCE!**

Our thanks to these BUCC members who have agreed to serve on our year-long task-force which will focus on our congregation's welcome and outreach, ministry and messaging, growth and future:

Jim Duffy, Leroy Ford, Diane Gressley, Ed Lusk, Anne Melfo, David Ritchey, George Snider, Sue Stenzel, Kathleen Stewart, Betsey Wilson, and Pastor Dave Shackle.

### **BUCC WELCOMES GLSEN [Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network]**

We have receive the following "Thank You" and an invitation from the Northeast Ohio GLSEN Board, which has begun holding their monthly meetings here at BUCC:

*On behalf of the Board of GLSEN Northeast Ohio we would like to thank you for opening your community for our meetings throughout this 2017-18 year. Our mission at GLSEN is to make sure that schools are safe for all students regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression. ►*

*In Northeast Ohio, we offer free professional development for educators in K– 12 schools and a multitude of resources, conferences, and social events for middle and high school students.*

*If you would like to know more about our work, please join us for our Annual Meeting, which will be held here at Brecksville UCC on Tuesday, September 26 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. We will have guest speakers as well as food and beverages as we discuss what all citizens can do to make school safer for all students. Please RSVP at [www.glsen.org/Northeastoh](http://www.glsen.org/Northeastoh)*

*Gary DiBianca and Jeff Bixby, Co-Chairs of GLSEN NEO*

GLSEN is a truly terrific and important organization! I hope you'll plan on attending this informative and community-building event. ~ Pastor Dave

## **FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC**

### **FINANCE**

A check in the amount of \$363 was sent to the Western Reserve Association for the Strengthen the Church collection.



With regard to requests for reimbursement, please note that checks will be issued without taxes paid on the item(s). Be sure to have two signatures, one to request and one to approve, along with paperwork verifying the purchase.

When altar flowers are donated, the amount is now \$25 if a member of the committee prepares the flowers.

## MEMBERSHIP

Just a quick reminder that the membership committee will be having a potluck dinner on September 10 - Rally Day Get your name on the sign-up sheet and plan to attend. If you have any questions please contact Kathy Smith 440 343 6354 or David Pastor 440-552-4403.



## PARTICIPANTS EACH SUNDAY

It is time to review the list of participants who help each Sunday with our service and Coffee Hour. It takes 17-19 volunteers each week.



Signup sheets will be circulated during Coffee Hour on 9/10 and 9/17. If you are currently participating please add your name so we can have an up to date list. Anyone that has not had the opportunity to participate please feel free to sign up.

Please think about which jobs you are willing to help with on Sundays. It is definitely all right to sign up for more than one opportunity.

Thank you in advance for helping.

## NEWS FROM OCWM

When this was being written, the takeout hunger meal at PRUMC had not happened. The results will be reported later. However, the Brookside Cluster Community Meal Group met and BUCC representatives selected dates for hunger meals during 2017 and 2018. The dates and places are November 26, 2017, at PRUMC, January 7, 2018, at Bethany UCC, March 4, 2018 at Bethany UCC, April 22, 2018 at PRUMC, and June 3, 2018 at Bethany UCC. ►



As the dates come closer, more detailed information will be provided and the sign-up board will appear in the narthex so interested persons can indicate where they would like to be of help.

The Thomas Jefferson school is in session now. In previous years, BUCC members volunteered to help teachers at the school. Persons who are interested in participating in this effort should contact Pastor Dave or Bob Chandler to see where they can be of help.

### **SCHOOL SUPPLY/BOOK DRIVE FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!:**

Sometimes in the fury of purchasing supplies to go back to school in the fall, you end up with too many erasers...or maybe you just couldn't pass up that sale for buy-one-get-one-free crayons? If so, OCWM will be more than happy to get these (any any other new or gently used school supplies you might have lying around) to kids who need them! Also, if you are clearing out your bookshelves, (especially kids books!) please contact us to arrange for a pick up. Children's books will be taken to the Cleveland Kids Book Bank and adult books taken to the Books for Prisoners program. For more information and to schedule a pick-up (only bring small packages/boxes/items to church, please!) contact Kate Klonowski at [keightykay@gmail.com](mailto:keightykay@gmail.com) or call/text (216) 534-3498 (she will also take other household items and women's clothing to Edna House if you give her extra hugs!).

## **NOTES AND ASIDES**

### **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

**BOOK DISCUSSION**--September's meeting is Monday, the 11th, @ 1:00 in the parlor. The book being read is BEING MORTAL by Atul Gawande about medicine and what matters in the end. Dr. Gawande is a practicing surgeon who fearlessly reveals the struggles of his profession. There are copies still available. Contact Dot Bailey for a copy.



## FOOD PANTRY



SEPTEMBER

Cereal

## ILCU

BUCC has had many of our members on a disabled list of late. Let's begin with Kirk and Lee Sanderson - Kirk is at Chippewa Place and Lee is at the Heights; Falls leading to hospitalizations



and surgeries include Betty Gifford, who is at home recovering now and Phyllis Molnar who is at Brentwood Rehab center on W Aurora Rd; Evelyn Seager has had a knee replaced and is at home recovering, and Bettina Ortiz is scheduled for back surgery the first part of November. Fred Pesek's wife Connie, passed away on August 9 and funeral services were held on August 14. Please keep these members and families in your prayers.

## MUSIC

### Brecksville UCC Music Ministry 2017-2018



Music is a powerful way to connect with God and each other. If you and/or your child(ren) enjoy singing or playing an instrument, please consider joining one of our music ensembles at BUCC. Dave Debick tries to make the program as user-friendly as possible! Here is a list of groups with starting rehearsal dates and times:

**Adult Choir:** First rehearsal is Thursday Sept. 7 from 7:30-9 PM. The choir prepares weekly anthems in a variety of styles for presentation at Sunday services; it also leads the hymn-singing at services. A great opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. High school students are welcome to participate.

**Joyful Noise Choir:** We begin practicing on Thursday Sept. 7 from 5:30-6:15 PM. This group is for K-5th graders. We learn easy songs based on Jesus' teachings, talk about the Bible, and have activities/games/crafts as time permits. We present music to the congregation every 3-4 weeks.

**Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble:** First practice is Wednesday Sept. 13 from 4:30-5 PM. We present preludes at Sunday services approximately once a month. Both instruments are easy to learn, and Dave Debeck is happy to provide free lessons on both. Note: we have an extra dulcimer available for someone to play, along with a couple recorders! Please contact Dave D. if interested or with any questions. All ages welcome.

**Youth Percussion Group:** This group is for 6th graders up, including adults who like to play on Sundays. First practice is Sunday Sept. 10 from 5:30-6 PM; youth ministry starts afterward at 6. These practices happen ~ *every other week*, so watch bulletins and Pillars for schedule. Percussion is a great way to release energy and stress while connecting with our Divine Source; we provide accompaniment on an as-needed basis for incidental music, choir anthems, and Joyful Noise songs.

**Instrumentalists:** If you play an instrument and are comfortable sharing your musical gifts with the congregation - either with the choir or solo - let Dave know so he can put you on our list of musicians. All ages are welcome.

**Seasonal Choir:** Seasonal choir helps fill out our regular choir for the presentation of the annual Christmas cantata, which is scheduled this year for Dec. 10. The first practice for seasonal choir will be Thurs. Oct. 12 from 7-8 PM. Stay tuned for choice of cantata!

**Private piano lessons:** Piano lessons are given on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and early evenings. First lessons will be scheduled for Wed. and Thurs. Sept. 13 and 14. Dave will be in touch with last year's students; if you'd like to begin as a new student this fall, please let Dave know. All ages and skill levels welcome.

Again, please consider participating in one of our musical ensembles this church year. ►

It's a wonderful way to open our souls to God while working as a creative team with each other. Feel free to attend a rehearsal and just observe what happens. You'll be glad you did!



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

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

***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, 2017**

**Friday, SEPTEMBER 1**

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 2**

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 3**

10 am Worship  
\*No Sunday School\*  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, SEPTEMBER 4**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***  
**LABOR DAY**

**Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 5**

**Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 6**

6 am Early Birds  
7:00 PM Council

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 7**

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

**Friday, SEPTEMBER 8**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER**

9:30 pm Joyful Noise  
7:30 pm Choir

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 10**

10 am Worship – Rally Day  
11 am Rally Day – Potluck  
5:30pm Youth Percussion  
6:00 pm Youth Ministry

**Monday, SEPTEMBER 11**

1:00 pm Book Discussion  
7:00 pm Facilities  
7:00 pm Spiritual Life

**Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 12**

**Wednesday, SEPT. 13**

6 am Early Birds  
\*Piano Lessons Start\*  
4:30 Recorder/Dul.  
7:00 PM Council

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 14**

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

**Friday, SEPTEMBER 15**

**PILLAR DEADLINE**  
**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 16**

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 17**

10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour

**Monday, SEPTEMBER 18**

**Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 19**

**Wednesday, SEPT.20**

6 am Early Birds  
11:30am Women United

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 21**

1 pm Bible Study

**Friday, SEPTEMBER 22**

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 23**

**Sunday, SEPTEMBER 24**

10 am Worship  
11 am Coffee Hour  
5:30pm Youth Percussion  
6:00 pm Youth Ministry

**Monday, SEPTEMBER 25**

**Tuesday, SEPTEMBER, 26**

**Wednesday, SEPT. 27**

6 am Early Birds  
7pm Led Development  
Parlor

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 28**

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

**Friday, SEPTEMBER 29**

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 30**

**\*THE OFFICE WILL  
BE CLOSED ON  
FRIDAYS.\***

## PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

### SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler  
Ushers: Dot & Stu Bailey  
Dave & Julie Bernard  
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart  
Peace Candle: Drew Demko  
Sound: Max Roha  
Comns Grtr: Fred Pesek  
Flowers: Jan Renovetz  
Nursery: Courtni Began  
Counters: Nancy Stella, Kathy Pastor  
Servers: Betty Kaul, Joanne Cook  
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Lynne Struck  
Snacks: Jim Pay, Susan Snyder

### SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Head Usher: Sue Stenzel  
Ushers: David Ritchey, Kathy Smith, Lindsey Maier, Jon Thompson  
Acolyte: Grace Hunt  
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt  
Sound: Doug Fawcett  
Comns Grtr: Betty Kaul  
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz  
Nursery: Gina Cook  
Counters: Dave Bernard, Donn Whyte  
Servers: Michelle Namitka, Darlene Kelly  
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs  
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Beth Rehling

### SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk  
Head Usher: Anne Melfo  
Ushers: Dan & Ian Stewart, Jess Barnes, Kate Klonowski  
Acolyte: Jillian Davis  
Peace Candle: Ben Davis  
Sound: Tim Wallis  
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley  
Flowers: Julie Bernard  
Nursery: Kate Klonowski  
Counters: Stu Bailey, Bruce McCain  
Servers: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel  
Clean-Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul  
Snacks: Kathleen Stewart, Heidi Spangler

### SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

Lay Reader: Evie Novak  
Head Usher: Bob Chandler  
Ushers: Bridget & Chad Sproul  
Tim & Kim Wallis  
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg  
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg  
Sound: David Pastor  
Comns Grtr: Dot Bailey  
Flowers: Kathy Pastor  
Nursery: Marla Corrado  
Counters: David Pastor, Jan Renovetz  
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Joy Garapic  
Clean Up: Jim & Peg Duffy  
Snacks: Kathy Ford, Gina Cook

# *The Pillar*

is published monthly by the

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