

The *Pillar*

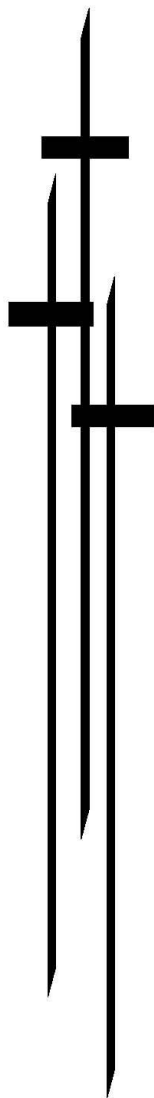
Brecksville United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY, 2016



LENT

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





*...on Mardi Gras [et
Dimanche Grand!]*

The day before Ash Wednesday is called “Mardi Gras”, which is French for “Fat Tuesday.” That name comes from the longstanding Church tradition of pigging-out on sweets and fatty foods before the beginning of the Lenten Season. Christians wanted to have one last big blow-out before that 40 day season of fasting and solemnity began. Mardi

Gras was also celebrated by the wearing of bright colors and hats, making loud and joyful music, and displaying an uninhibited and lighthearted demeanor. February 7th, we will celebrate Mardi Gras two days early at BUCC with a “Dimanche Grand” [“Big Sunday”] of special music and decorations, bright colors and hats, and a New Orleans-style Pot Luck Dinner to follow!

We will also use this as an opportunity to kick-off our BUCC Bicentennial Celebration Year! Our Bicentennial Task Force has been meeting since last April to dream-up and plan a wonderful variety of events, activities, and projects for this entire year. Many of you have already contributed to our Bicentennial Quilt, our “200 Years of Serving” cookbook, and have bought those marvelous flat flashlights. Our various Ministry Teams have taken-on special projects that will literally highlight our congregation’s past, present, and future. [i.e. - Memorial Day Parade, Home Days Welcome, Time Capsule, New Pictorial Directory, Relighting Our Steeple].

The biggest event this year will be our Fall Banquet, where we will invite special guests from our community and from BUCC’s past, to celebrate this historic time with us. We really want all of our members to be present at this event; and the primary reason for our fund-raising is to cover the costs of that magnificent occasion.

So, in the words of our illustrious Task Force leader, Betsey Wilson: "Dig out your favorite hat, whether it's elegant, sporty, or just plain crazy. Then wear it to church on Sunday February 7th. We'll also be passing the hat that day...in support of the Bicentennial Banquet."

Mardi Gras and Lent reminds us that our lives have cycles of ups and downs, good and bad, joy and sorrow, feast and famine. And while we certainly can't schedule these cycles as we do our Church Seasons, we can definitely plan to help and support one another as we ride together on Life's roller-coaster. We can use the memories and stories of our good times, to carry us through the bad. We can allocate some of the riches and resources of the "fat" times, to help sustain us in the lean. But most importantly, we can remind one another of wonderful Good News which is ours to share: the message of Divine love and grace, revealed to us in Jesus Christ. This Message is always in season, and there's always plenty to go around!

With you in Christ's Service,
Pastor Dave

MIDWEEK LENTEN STUDY

"LOOKING BACKWARD TO MOVE FORWARD" is the theme of this year's Lenten Study. On Tuesday February 16th, from 7:15 to 8:30 pm, we begin a five week overview of the story of our Christian Faith. Each session will highlight a significant era of the Church's Life, and we will explore how that historical period might correspond to a particular stage of our own lives and faith. We start with "Judaism and the Jesus Movement - Every Family Has It's Issues" I hope to see you there!

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

A check has been sent to the Western Reserve Association in the amount of \$683.75. The offering to the Christmas Fund is used by the United Church of Christ Board of Pensions to assist retired clergy and lay workers. The Fund also supports an emergency fund for UCC pensioners, retired low-income clergy, and lay employees. Thank you for your generous support.

 Your
donation
is greatly
appreciated

NEWS FROM OCWM

The mitten tree continues to fill up. Last month, the tree was very full, and the hats and mittens were delivered to Community Corner along with the delivery of donated food items. At last look, the tree has magically managed to start filling up again. With the colder weather coming, the hats and mittens will be needed. Thank you all who have participated in filling up this tree.



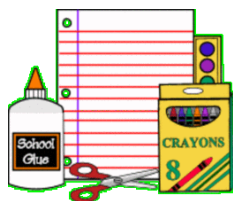
Speaking of food deliveries, also last month, the donated food items were delivered to Community Corner in an unusually large amount. The delivery consisted of 39 bags of food, 2 bags of mittens and hats, some clothing and a frozen turkey! Thank you to all who have generously donated these items.

The aluminum can barrel also continues to accumulate cans for recycling into funds for BUCC mission projects. Thank you to all who continue to provide cans and other aluminum items.

NOTES AND ASIDES

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers are a beautiful way to celebrate an event or to remember a loved one. Those of us who volunteer on the flower ministry have found that the amount donated doesn't always cover the expense of the flowers used for the occasion. This donation is being increased to **\$25.00** beginning February 1, 2016. Thank you for your continued support.



CRAFT CUPBOARD (Food Pantry)

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

BICENTENNIAL MINISTRY

"It's time to kick off our Bicentennial Celebration and we're having a "PASS THE HAT" Fundraiser to get the show on the road! First and foremost, dig out your favorite hat, whether it's elegant, sporty or just plain crazy. Then wear it to church on **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7th**.



We'll also be passing a hat that day to raise funds in support of the Bicentennial Banquet in fall. This is the **EASIEST** fundraiser we have. You don't need to buy anything, you don't need to volunteer your time, and 100% of your donation

will support the Bicentennial Banquet. Please follow your heart and give generously to support a celebration 200 years in the making!"



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
Jan Rahnenfuehrer
Bill Toneff
Victor Melfo-Fawcett |
| February 25: | Darlene Kelly |
| February 26: | Briana Brown
Kim Steffanini |
| 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!

LIBRARY

Have you visited the BUCC library lately? If not, come see all the new books!

Over the course of the last few months, we have been blessed to receive a number of donated books for our library - so many in fact, that we can't keep up with cataloging them all! To ensure that they are made available to folks as soon as possible, we have started putting bright orange 'New' stickers on the books and putting them on the shelves. You can borrow these books whenever you like on the honor system - no need to sign them out. Once they are cataloged, we will add them to the sign out lists.



Our library has more than just biblical and religious Christian texts -- there's now a whole shelf with quotes and illustrative stories for public speakers. There are also a number of books on

other religions and spirituality. If you are a Sunday School teacher, there's an entire section of reference materials for you.

So thank you to all the folks who continue to help our library grow by donating books, and come take a look - you may find an interesting read!

MUSIC



Mardi Gras Service and potluck: To help kick off BUCC's bicentennial celebrations, our service on Sunday February 7 will feature toe tapping Mardi Gras music accompanied by a guest jazz ensemble. Following the service we'll have a smorgasbord potluck in Pilgrim Hall. Please plan on joining us Feb. 7 (last Sunday before Lent) to enjoy some fine music and food. ***(Continued next page)***

Seasonal choir will begin rehearsing for Holy Week on Thursday Feb. 11 from 7-8:00 p.m. These rehearsals provide a good opportunity to prepare spiritually for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Listening CDs are provided to help with the learning process. Practices run weekly during the six-week Lenten season.

SOUND

People Don't Like to be Left Out

Indeed, we at BUCC take pride in being inclusive to everyone, regardless of their situation. However, inadvertently, we frequently leave out some people of our congregation during our worship services.



We have a good sound system in our sanctuary and a well-qualified group of volunteers to operate it. They make sure those parts of the service (announcements, readings, sermons, etc.) that should be amplified into the sanctuary and those parts (preludes, hymns, choir presentations, etc.) that do not need to be and would cause echoes, etc. are not amplified.

In addition, these operators also make sure that the ENTIRE service is amplified for a special group of our congregation. These are the parents, who have to retreat to the narthex with an unhappy child, and others who are there for other reasons, members who could not attend the service and who borrow an audio CD from the office, and those who use one of our Williams personal units to supplement their fading hearing or their hearing aids.

These people are left out whenever announcements are made or invitations are extended without using a microphone, when people do not speak directly into a microphone, when a soloist decides a microphone is not needed, when microphones which have been specifically placed for picking up an input are turned off, or a microphone placed for a responsive pickup or hymn singing is turned away from the congregation.

Let's all be aware that our sound system and its operators are doing a multiplicity of things on any Sunday morning. Let's help them make BUCC fully inclusive. Let's not leave anyone out.

WOMEN UNITED

The next meeting of Women United will be Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Joanne Cook will be sharing some of her art work with us. Joanne is a talented artist both as a painter and as a quilter. Join us, bring a friend, a sandwich and enjoy the fellowship. Coffee and tea will be provided.



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANTUARY



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Easter with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

DEADLINE – SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016

I Enclose \$10.00 _____ or other _____ for Easter Plants

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____ or Other _____

Your Name

I will keep the Flowers _____

I will NOT keep Flowers _____

I will help Deliver Plants to shut-ins after Easter _____

BUCC CALENDAR
FEBRUARY, 2016

Monday, Feb 1

Tuesday, Feb. 2
10-11:30 C.W.R.U

Wednesday, Feb. 3
6 am Early Birds
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, Feb. 4
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Friday, Feb. 5

Saturday, Feb. 6
9 am Facilities

Sunday, Feb. 7
10 am Worship
11 am Mardi Gras Potluck

Monday, Feb. 8

Tuesday, Feb. 9
10-11:30 C.W.R.U
10:30 am Cookbook
Library

Wednesday, Feb. 10
***ASH WEDNESDAY ***
6 am Early Birds
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Communion

Thursday, Feb. 11

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

Friday, Feb. 12

Saturday, Feb.13

Sunday, Feb. 14
Happy Valentine's Day
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
11 am Stewardship
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, Feb. 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Tuesday, Feb. 16
10-11:30 C.W.R.U
7:15pm Lenten Study

Wednesday, Feb. 17
6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women United
7 pm Council

Thursday, Feb. 18
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, Feb. 19

Saturday, Feb. 20

Sunday, Feb. 21
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, Feb. 22

Tuesday, Feb. 23
10-11:30 C.W.R.U
7:15pm Lenten Study

Wednesday, Feb. 24
6 am Early Birds
7 pm Bicentennial
Ministry

Thursday, Feb. 25
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, Feb. 26
Saturday, Feb. 27

Sunday, Feb. 28
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Participants in Worship

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Matt Wolbert, George Snider
Vicki Szabo, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: David Pastor
Comms Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Nancy Stella, Carole Snider
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Marge Culver
Clean Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Marla Corrado, Annie Demko
Snow Herder: Joe Wilson

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Linda Kriynovich, Jim Duffy
Wes Novak, Sue Maier
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comms Grtr: Evie Novak
Narthex Grtr: George Snider
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Bruce McCain, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Carole Snider, Joanne Cook
Clean-Up: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks: Gina Cook, Tia Began
Snow Herder: Jim Demko

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul,
Sue Stenzel, David Ritchey
Ushers: Betsey & Joe Wilson
Jillian Davis
Acolyte: Olivia Klonowski
Peace Candle: Tim Wallis
Sound: Marge Culver
Comms Grtr: Jon Thompson
Narthex Grtr: Jan Renovetz
Flowers: Jan Cook
Nursery: Carole Snider, David Pastor
Counters: Darlen Kelly, Michele
Servers: Namitka
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Marge Culver, Kathleen
Stewart
Snow Herder: Dave Bernard

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Fred Pesek, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Cliff Cribbs
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jim Duffy, Marge Culver
Servers: Chad Sproul, Vicki Szabo
Clean-Up: Jill Zedan, Jon Thompson
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Kate
Klonowski
Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

