

Pillar

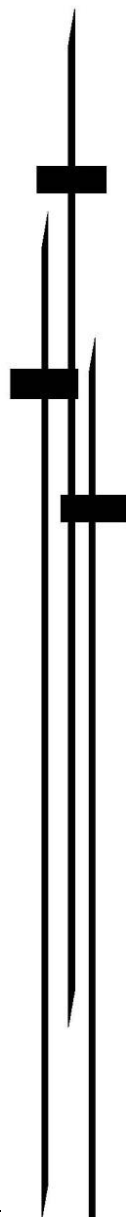
The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

December, 2016



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



Pastor's Ponderings

... Joy to the World! [and to All People!]

When the heavenly messenger comes to announce the birth of the Christ Child, the shepherds are told, "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy that will be for *all* the people!" With all the bad news that hits our world on a regular basis, "Good Tidings of Great Joy" may be precisely what "all the people" need to hear! In the tiny baby of Bethlehem, in the humble preacher of Nazareth, and through the vulnerable person on the cross, you and I are reminded that Divine Love and Joy often comes to us in ways which we would never expect or anticipate. Through Christ's coming, we can learn to look for the Holy Presence even [or especially] in times of difficult challenges or discouraging news. And in Christ's rising, we learn that even the most tragic event can ultimately be transformed into a victorious celebration of Life.

One of the benefits of the coming of the Christ Child is that it reminds us that the Holy One is not only revealed in grand and glorious ways, but also in ways that are small and tender, gentle and warm. This can be helpful to remember, particularly in a Season when our society and culture clamor for impressive affairs, entertaining events, and spectacular productions. Of course we ourselves will light our candles, put-up our decorations, crank-up the carols and make a joyful noise! And we will definitely enjoy some spectacular productions right here, with our Choir's Cantata and our Sunday School Pageant. However, you and I can also keep our eyes and ears open for the small and quiet signs of the Divine Presence among us - in the smile of a baby, the happy play of children, in gentle words of encouragement, and the kind gestures of love that are expressed among us.

This time of year reminds us that there is nothing, or no one, beyond the reach of the Holy One - the One who's coming among us bridges the gap between heaven and earth. I pray that in these days ahead, you and I will keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open, so that we might see and experience some of the marvelous and heavenly wonders that surround us.

I also hope that we will look for, and find, some truly creative ways to share those Good Tidings of Great Joy with *all* the people we meet!

Peace & Joy to all!
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.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE HOLY ONE - and bring joy and Good Tidings to others!

On Sunday, December 11th, at 2:00 pm, our youth, adults, and children will meet at the church to go caroling to our shut-in members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special Christmas greeting to those members who typically can't join us for Sunday morning worship. We will return to the church around 4:00, to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies! If you are interested in participating, please talk with Pastor Dave.

CHRISTMAS IS ON SUNDAY THIS YEAR!

So...please join us for our annual 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service! AND for our 10:00 am Christmas Morning Service - which will start upstairs in the Sanctuary, then move down to Pilgrim Hall, for a more informal gathering/discussion around the breakfast table.



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

An Open Letter to Pastor Dave

Dear Pastor Dave,

On behalf of a grateful congregation I would like to thank you for your unwavering and tireless commitment to our Bicentennial efforts. From your calming presence to your enthusiastic “can-do” spirit, your leadership this year has been as in-tune as has been your entire ministry since you arrived here twelve years ago. Never doubt it... you are here, at this time and place, for a reason. It’s obvious (and uplifting) to us that you are humbly proud of our mighty little family; and while pride is not something we aspire to, we can’t help but be proud and grateful to have you at our helm.

Thank you. You are valued and you are cherished. And two hundred years from now, our ancestors will know that you are loved.

Very sincerely,

Betsey Wilson

2016 Bicentennial Ministry Chairperson



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational Meeting right after Worship Service on Sunday, December 4. Please plan to join us.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The book discussion group was started under the leadership of Dot Bailey in 2015 as a summer activity. Currently there is an interest in continuing the group during the winter season. Various members will volunteer to lead the discussion.



Currently we have been meeting on the first or second Monday of the month in the parlor. We won't be meeting during December. In January each of those present may present a short review of a book that they have enjoyed.

It isn't necessary to buy the books as they will be available from the library.

If you want more personal news about this group contact one of the following; Marge Culver, Midge Cassidy, Betty Gifford, Carole Snider, Peg Duffy, Beth Rehling, Joy Garapic, or Caroline Chandler. See you January 2nd



FOOD PANTRY

Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, etc.

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!



MUSIC

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: BUCC's annual cantata will be presented on Sunday December 11 at our regular 10 AM service. This year's cantata is titled *Gift of Heaven*.



Written/created by Chris and Diane Machen with Camp Kirkland, *Gift of Heaven* features a number of powerful contemporary melodies along with traditional carols. The cantata will be accompanied by an instrumental ensemble consisting of flutes, trumpets, trombone, violin and percussion. Please plan on joining us on December 11 for this BUCC holiday tradition!

ALL SAINTS DAY MUSICAL NOTES: Here is some background information on two unique pieces that were presented during our All Saints service on Nov. 6.

Apparition of the eternal church, by French composer Olivier Messiaen, was our prelude that morning. Written in 1932, this stunning piece is in arc form, beginning in pianissimo (*pp*) and building up to a fortissimo (*fff*) climax featuring a C major chord, and then receding back to pianissimo. Richly colored chords alternate with open fifths, on top of a throbbing bass which repeats a simple rhythmic pattern. Programmatically, the piece describes the appearance of the eternal church, which then fades away.

For me, the piece paints a tonal picture of an enormous cathedral supported by gigantic pillars (the open fifths.) The rich, dissonant chords represent the billions of faithful souls comprising the eternal Body of Christ; the open fifth "pillars" might symbolize the more prominent saints who have influenced the course of history, like St. Paul, St. John, St. Benedict, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Theresa of Avila, etc. The piece is actually supposed to be played very slowly, taking up to ten minutes to perform (in order to "condense" the music to prelude length, I set a quicker tempo.) You can listen to *Apparition...* by Googling the title followed by the word YouTube.

The Communion piece on Nov. 6 was "Ashokan Farewell," written by Jay Ungar in 1982. (***continued***)

Ken Burns chose this haunting Scottish-style waltz lament as the title theme for his 1990 documentary masterpiece, *The Civil War*. Steve Ostrow, our guest violinist on Nov. 6, played the song with soulful grace. You can listen to "Ashokan Farewell" by Googling the title followed by the word YouTube.

A NOTE OF THANKS



Many thanks to Sherrill Witt for donating funds to cover the cost of the cover for the piano in the sanctuary. The cover will protect the piano finish from sun damage.

A Special Thank You to the Angels that helped me in the Office while I was out recovering. Marge Culver & Jan Renovetz generously gave several days to be here handling office work. Jim Duffy took all the computer work over – from the Bulletin to the completion of the Advent Book. Their help is such a Blessing!



Thank you again to all who have kept me in your thoughts and prayers!
Love, Jeannette

OCWM

This year, the Christmas donation will be given to developmentally disabled children at Prentiss school, where Darlene Kelly is an administrator. BUCC has donated Christmas gifts to this school in the past. Darlene will provide first names, sizes, and interests for the children on a gift tag/ornament which will be hung on a Christmas tree in the narthex. Just select a tag, provide a wrapped gift, and place it in the box, which will be provided. The tags will be on the tree by November 27th, and the wrapped gifts must be received at BUCC by December 11th in order to have them reach the children by



The Pillar of the Brecksville United Church of Christ

December 16th, the last school day before winter break. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information.

The next hunger meal will be served at Pearl Road United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 18th. The menu will be a pasta entrée (lasagna, etc.), salad, bread and spread, drinks, and Christmas cookies for dessert. The sign-up board will be in the narthex. Two shifts will be needed – one at 2:30 PM for setting up and preparing, and one at 4:00 PM for serving and cleaning up. About 150 meals are anticipated. This is a good example of your stewardship at work, as your pledges and giving are transformed into food for needy people.

The Christmas Fund will be received at the December 24 Christmas eve service at 10 PM. Also the offering at the Christmas eve service will be devoted to the Christmas Fund.

The funds are used to supplement monthly pensions for lower-income retired UCC clergy and lay employees. Such needs as food, utilities, and living and medical expenses are also included. And quarterly health premium supplementation, especially for prescription medications, is included. Emergency grants are provided when needed, and also “thank you” gift checks for these Veterans Of The Cross are given as a special gift as a reminder that they have not been forgotten.

RE-SCHEDULING THE SCHEDULER



Betty Kaul is taking over the job of scheduling worship participants. That means you will be contacting her with the Sundays for which you are not available or if you wish to serve on a particular Sunday. As usual the Pillar deadline is the 15th of the previous month. It would help Betty and Jeannette if you can get your schedule to her a few days prior. If you find that you are scheduled for a date that you cannot make, the policy has been that you should trade with another person on the schedule and then notify the office of this change. Betty Kaul's phone number is 440-526-1244.

WOMEN UNITED

Please join us Tuesday, November 29, at 7:30 PM at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 9201 Brecksville Road in Brecksville for their Annual Advent Tea. For directions call Dorie at 440-552-4029. Several of us attended last year and left with many good memories. Have a great and a glorious Christmas and New Year.



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

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| December 4: | Jon Thompson
Doug Fawcett |
| December 6: | Kevin Smith
Jacob VanDuyne |
| December 12: | Betty Einhart |
| December 13: | Grace Hunt
Michael VanDuyne |
| December 17: | Shannon West |
| December 19: | David Durkit |
| December 20: | Genny Costanzo
Naomi Klonowski
Jim Duffy
Jill Black |
| December 21: | Bob Chandler
Lauren Haynes |
| December 25: | Linda Kriynovich
Jesus |
| December 28: | Dan Stewart
Valerie Duffy |
| December 29: | Amy Coyer-Westerberg |

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH POINSETTIAS IN OUR
SANCTUARY**



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Christmas 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, DECEMBER 4****



I Enclose \$12.00 _____ or other _____ for Poinsettias

In Memory _____ or Honor _____ or _____

Of _____

Your Name _____

I WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS _____

****PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP YOUR
POINSETTIA OR LEAVE IT HERE FOR SHUT-INS AND
OTHERS****

WILL KEEP _____
WILL NOT KEEP _____

BUCC CALENDAR
DECEMBER, 2016

Thursday, Dec. 1

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

Friday, DEC. 2

Saturday, DEC. 3

11 am Bill Harris
Memorial Service
*Luncheon to Follow

Sunday, DEC. 4

10 am Worship
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

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

Monday, DEC. 5

1 pm Book Discussion

Tuesday, DEC. 6

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, DEC. 7

6 am Early Birds
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, DEC. 8

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7-9 pm Cantata Practice
With instruments and
Narrator
8 pm Choir

Friday, DEC. 9

Saturday, DEC. 10

10 am Cantata Practice
With Instruments and
Narrator
12 pm Cantata at
Chippewa Place (choir and
Narrator only)

Sunday, DEC. 11

10 am Worship
CANTATA
11 am Coffee Hour
*Last Day to Receive
Christmas Gift Donations*

Monday, DEC. 12

Tuesday, DEC. 13

10-11:30 CWRU

Wednesday, DEC. 14

6 am Early Birds
7 pm Council

Thursday, DEC. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Pageant Practice
NO ADULT CHOIRS

Friday, DEC. 16

Saturday, DEC. 17

Sunday, DEC. 18

10 am Worship
PAGEANT
11 am Coffee Hour
*Hunger Meal
PRUMC*

Monday, DEC. 19

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Tuesday, DEC. 20

Wednesday, DEC. 21
6 am Early Birds

Thursday, DEC. 22
NO CHOIR

Friday, DEC. 23

Saturday, DEC. 24
10 pm Worship Service
CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Sunday, DEC. 25

10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, DEC. 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, DEC. 27

Wednesday, DEC. 28
6 am Early Birds

Thursday, Dec. 29
NO CHOIR

Friday, Dec. 30

Saturday, Dec. 31

Sunday, January 1, 2017
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

DEC. 4, 2016

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Betsey Wilson
Vicki Szabo, Jim Duffy
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comms Grtr: Carole Snider
Narthex Grtr: Evie Novak
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Valerie Tyler
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jim Duffy
Servers: Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Clean Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Gina Cook, Heidi Spangler
Snow Herder: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

DEC. 11, 2016

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Sam Koch, John Thompson
Jane Cribbs, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Candle: Jillian Davis
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: George Snider
Narthex Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Carole Snider, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Marge Culver, Joanne Cook
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor
Snacks: Peg Duffy, Kathleen Stewart
Snow Herder: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

DEC. 18, 2016

Lay Reader: Sam Koch
Head Usher: Anne Melfo
Ushers: Carole Snider, Joanne Cook
George Snider, Darlene Kelly
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Lucy Brown
Sound: Kevin Smith

(Continued Next Column)

Comms Grtr: Bridget Sproul
Narthex Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Bruce McCain, Marge Culver
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Beth Rehling, Anne Melfo
Snow Herder: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

DEC. 24, 2016

Lay Reader: David Pastor
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Wes Novak
Tim & Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comms Grtr: Betty Kaul
Narthex Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Poinsettias
Counters: Sue Stenzel, Kathy Pastor
Snow Herder: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

DEC. 25, 2016

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Fred Pesek, Kathy Smith
Jon Thompson, Chad Sproul
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comms Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Jon Thompson
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Donn Whyte, Jim Duffy
Servers: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE
Clean Up: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE
Snacks: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE
Snow Herder: VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

