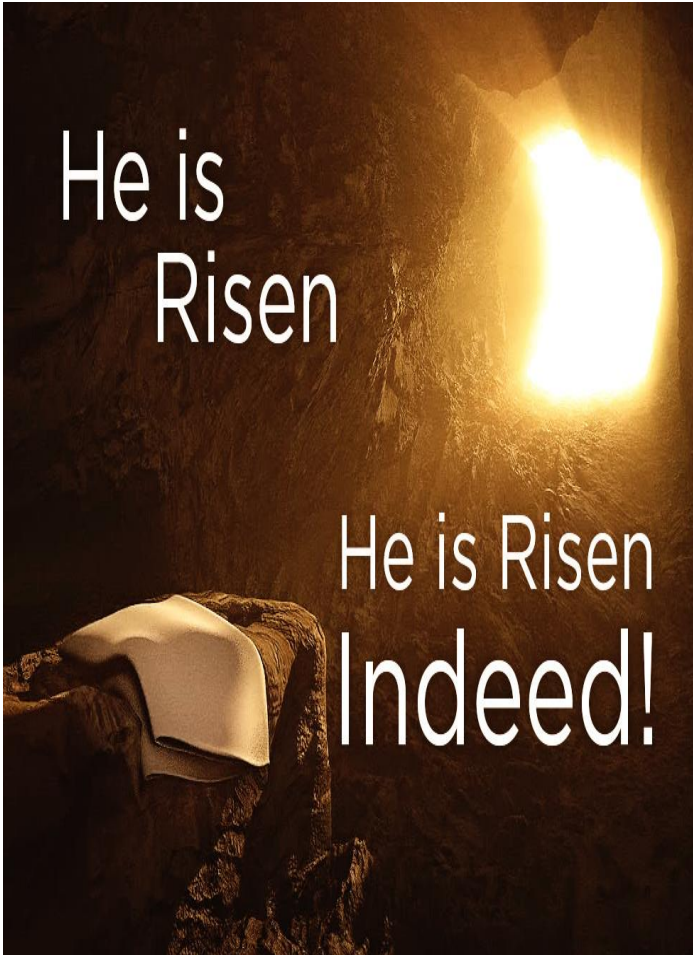


Pillar

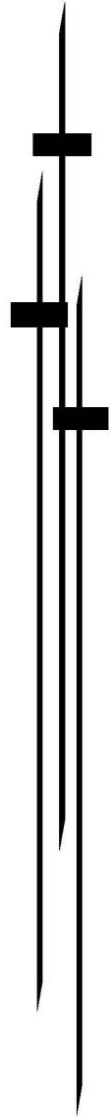
The

Brecksville United Church of Christ

April, 2017



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



Pastor's Ponderings

...on Keeping It Real...

At our first session of this year's Lenten Study, Max Roha issued his annual warning to me about the perils of preaching on Easter Sunday. And as usual, Max raises a good point. Throughout the year, we liberal-leaning liturgists like to tread lightly when dealing with the "miraculous" stories of Scripture. We understand that a story doesn't have to be factual, in order to convey a profound truth. For example, did representatives of every creature on earth literally float together on a big boat for 190 days [40 days of raining and 150 days of draining]? It seems unlikely. Does human greed, pride and wickedness contribute to the destruction of life on our planet? It seems highly likely!

Max is right. It is problematic when preachers question the possibility of Divine intervention 51 Sundays of the year, and then insist upon it for one. In fact, Easter isn't just one day of the year, or a seven-week Season of the Church Year. Easter is an on-going event that impacts the way in which we see and understand Life. Easter proclaims a rising from Death to Life, and a transformation of the way in which we view them both. Easter helps us free us from our fears, and from that ultimate fear of death itself. It inspires and empowers us to see ourselves and all those around us in a new light.

The continuing power of Easter isn't found simply in our believing that Jesus was raised from death to life. It is discovered whenever you and I allow Christ's power of love and life to overcome the destructive forces of hatred and fear which we encounter. Easter happens when people are willing to stand-up for what is fair and compassionate, even in the face of severe criticism or persecution. Easter is about honoring Christ's call that we recognize and treat all people as our brothers and sisters, and that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. The power of Easter shines brightest when people look for the brightest and best in one another, and thereby help bring it forth. Easter isn't about looking at the world through rose colored glasses - it's about seeing the world with all its problems and pain, yet trusting that there is no pain or problem that can ever separate us from the Divine love and grace which is embodied in Jesus Christ.

The message of Easter is that - try though we might - humankind cannot bury or entomb the truth of God's amazing and everlasting love. It will always find a way to rise again! This is why the story of Easter can never be merely the retelling of an event that took place two thousand years ago. It is a living reminder of how the Divine Source of Life and Love continues to touch and transform our lives with Good News. On the first Easter morning, in spite of the confusion, fear, and doubt that surround them, those first witnesses hurry from the tomb to share the Good News with their friends, their enemies, and eventually, the entire world:

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

This is the Good News that inspires our lives. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

Peace and Joy,
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.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER OPPORTUNITIES AT BUCC:

April 9th - 10 am - Palm Sunday - Procession of Palms and Worship Service

April 13th - 6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Soup Supper

7:00 - Holy Communion

7:30 - Tenebrae Service of Shadow

April 14th - 7:00 pm Saint Bridget Good Friday Service

April 15th - 8:30 pm Saint Bridget Easter Vigil

[The Community of Saint Bridget is the group that holds Mass here on Saturdays, led by Ann Klonowski and Mary Collingwood.]

April 16 - 6:00 am - Easter Sunrise Service and Holy Communion at the Brecksville/Highland Cemetery [Highland Drive, just South of Rte. 82 - park at the water tower]

10:00 am - Easter Festival Celebration

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

CHRISTIAN ED

Church Members...please watch for the inspiring window sun-catchers to go on sale for the youth religion class Lenten sale. The children made these, and other items, over the past few weeks. They look terrific whether it's sunny or not! (We tested them on the classroom window). We hope you find them irresistible.



And, thank you to the Chandlers for donating the Catans gift card for supplies for this project!

OCWM

There will be a hunger meal served on Sunday, April 2nd (the first Sunday in April) at Bethany UCC. A tentative menu will be mostaccioli and meatballs, salad and cookies for dessert. It would be appreciated if BUCC members and friends could make cookies for dessert. We plan on serving 50 or 60 meals. A few (five or six) persons will be needed to set up and prepare on the first shift, from 2:30 to 4:00. A few more persons will be needed to serve and clean up on the second shift, from 4:00 to 6:00. A sign-up board is in the narthex, as well as directions to Bethany UCC.



A big “thank you” goes to all BUCC members and friends who have been filling up the magic aluminum can barrel in the lower commons.

An even greater “thank you” goes to all those BUCC members and friends who have been so generously donating food items and other items such as dental things and personal hygiene things which are not covered by food stamps. The last delivery to a hunger center last month was about 50 bags.

The estimated value was \$250, but that in no way comes close to the real value to those people who have little or no food.

Looking ahead to May, an offering for the benefit of Edna House, a residence for women who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction will be received on May 24th. This safe place to live is home for 40 women at present. This 501(c)3 organization receives no federal, state or local funding, but is dependent on donations to keep going. More interpretive material will be available later.

NOTES AND ASIDES

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet Monday, April 3rd in the Parlor. Peg Duffy will lead the group as they discuss “Flight Behavior” by Barbara Kingsolver. This novel is about the discovery of an unexpected and miraculous congregation of Monarch butterflies that leads to a national sensation and biological mystery.

If you would like to join us for the discussion please call Caroline Chandler at chandler9143@roadrunner.com or 440-526-9714 for a book.

FYI



To those of you who knew our former Pastor, Edie O'Donnell, she is having hip surgery on April 11. I thought she might enjoy receiving a call or note from you." From Jane Cribbs

Edie O'Donnell
37 Filley St.
Windsor, CT 06095
860-688-8861

MUSIC

Holy Week Music



Our choir, seasonal choir and several BUCC instrumentalists will be presenting a diverse selection of music to highlight this year's celebration of Palm Sunday (April 9), Maundy Thursday (April 13) and Easter (April 16.) Here are brief descriptions of the pieces that will be presented:

Palm Sunday - The Palm procession music is a rousing piece by Lloyd Larson titled "Sing Hosanna!" It will be accompanied by guitar, flutes, trumpet and percussion. The first anthem, "Cloaks and Palm Branches," is a spirited, Spanish-style piece by Ruben Ruiz Avila that tells the story of Jesus' joyous entry into Jerusalem. The second anthem for Palm Sunday, "Sing to the Lord Hosanna!", was written by Patrick M. Liebergen; it features a driving rhythmic pattern accentuated by multiple percussion instruments.

Maundy Thursday - The anthem for our Communion service is "Jesus Took the Cup." The wonderfully reflective, humble arrangement is based on a Scottish tune; the lyrics recount the Last Supper and Jesus' institution of Holy Communion.

Easter - The Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble, assisted by the Youth Percussion Group, will open the service with an energetic interpretation of the old French tune, "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing." The Introit, sung by the adult and youth choirs, is Gregory Norbet's beautiful Alleluia setting, "Something Which Is Known." The first anthem, "With a Voice of Singing," was written by prominent English composer Martin Shaw; the dynamic piece proclaims the Good News that life and love have prevailed over the forces of death and evil through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The second anthem, "Triumphant Praise," by Mike Harland, features an exceptional melody line supported by strong harmonic progressions and instrumental accompaniment.

We hope to see you at this year's Holy Week services. Our dedicated volunteer musicians have been working hard to make your worship experience a meaningful, joyous one!

WOMEN UNITED

Women United will meet Wednesday, April 19th at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Our speaker will be Andrea DeBiasio, executive director of Edna House.



Edna House is a safe place for about 40 women who are recovering from alcohol and drug dependency. Edna House offers long-term, structured sober living and education for women seeking recovery from addiction to drugs and alcohol. Join us to hear about this unique, safe place. Andrea, herself, is an alumnus of this program. Her story of this home is pertinent and timely, particularly since the opiate crisis is so prevalent these days.

In May BUCC will be taking a collection for the benefit of Edna House which does not receive Federal or state, or local funding.

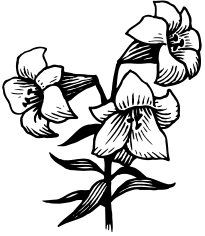


Happy, Happy April Birthdays to the following BUCC Members!
Please share in their joy and wish them a Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| April 5: | Phyllis Molnar |
| April 6: | G Wardlaw |
| April 9: | Arthur Cook |
| April 10: | Jan Wardlaw |
| April 12: | Sandra Rooney |
| April 14: | Max Roha |
| April 17: | Lynne Struck |
| April 18: | Brian Esser |
| April 21: | Vickie Szabo |
| April 22: | Nate Hunt
Evan Smith |
| April 25: | Sebastian Albenze |
| April 27: | Rob Grow |
| April 29: | Sherrill Witt
Claire Esser |
| April 30: | Jeannette Kroeger |

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

CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY



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, APRIL 2, 2017

I Enclose \$12.00 _____ or other _____ for Easter Plants

In Memory of _____
In Honor of _____ 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
MARCH, 2017

Saturday, APRIL 1
10-2 Leadership
Development

Sunday, APRIL 2
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
Hunger Meal Bethany

Monday, APRIL 3
1 pm Book Club/Parlor
7:30 pm Facilities

Tuesday, APRIL 4
7:15 pm Lenten Study

Wednesday, APRIL 5
6 am Early Birds
7 pm Spiritual Life

Thursday, APRIL 6
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Seasonal Choir
8 pm Choir

Friday, APRIL 7

Saturday, APRIL 8
8 am Spring Clean-Up

Sunday, APRIL 9
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, APRIL 10

Tuesday, APRIL 11

Wednesday, APRIL 12
6 am Early Birds
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer
7 pm Council

Thursday, APRIL 13
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
6:30 pm Soup Supper
7 pm Communion
7:30 pm Tenebrae Service

Friday, APRIL 14
7 pm Passion Reading
St. Bridget

Saturday, APRIL 15
PILLAR DEADLINE
10 am Choir Rehearsal
8:30 pm Easter Vigil
St. Bridget

Sunday, APRIL 16
EASTER SUNDAY
6 AM Sunrise Service
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour

Monday, APRIL 17
10 am Leadership Dev.

Tuesday, APRIL 18

Wednesday, APRIL 19
6 am Early Birds
11:30 am Women United
**4:30 pm NO RECORDER
DULCIMER**

Thursday, APRIL 20
1 pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, APRIL 21
3-6 PM Set-up Fabric
Sale

Saturday, APRIL 22
9-12pm Fabric Sale

Sunday, APRIL 23
10 am Worship
11 am Coffee Hour
5:30 pm Youth Percussion
6 pm Youth Ministry

Monday, APRIL 24

Tuesday, APRIL 25
7:15 pm Lenten Study

Wednesday, APRIL 26
4:30 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

Thursday, APRIL 27
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7 pm Choir

Friday, APRIL 28
Saturday, APRIL 29
Sunday, APRIL 30

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

APRIL 2, 2017

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Diane Gressley, Sam Koch,
Linda Kriynovich, Fred
Pesek
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Ben Davis
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Bettina Ortiz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Nancy Stella, Carole Snider
Servers: Marge Culver, Caroline
Chandler
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Jim Pay, Susan Snyder
Snow Herder: Cliff Cribbs

APRIL 9, 2017 PALM SUNDAY

Lay Reader: Darlene Kelly
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Tim & Kim Wallis
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: David Pastor
Comms Grtr: Max Roha
Flowers: Palms
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Donn Whyte, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Joanne Cook, Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Heidi
Spangler
Snow Herder: Doug Fawcett

APRIL 16, 2017 EASTER SUNDAY

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: George & Carole Snider
Matt Wolbert & Kate
Klolnowski
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle: Olivia Kllonowski
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comms Grtr: Betty Kaul
Flowers: Easter Lilies ►

Nursery: Valerie Tyler
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Jim Duffy
Servers: Joy Garapic, Betty Kaul
Clean-Up: Cliff & Jane Cribbs
Snacks: Sue Stenzel, Gina Cook
Snow Herder: Joe Wilson

APRIL 23, 2017

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Head Usher: Jan Renovetz
Ushers: Jim Duffy, Betty Kaul
Lindsey Maier, David
Ritchey
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Max Roha
Comms Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Flowers: Julie Bernard
Nursery: Courtni Began
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Dave Bernard
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Vicki Szabo, Tina Ortiz

APRIL 30, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Beth Rehling, Darlene Kelly,
Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Fred Pesek
Flowers: Carole Snider (*yellow
flowers*)
Nursery: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Counters: Marge Culver, David Pastor
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Julie Bernard
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Anne Melfo, Kathleen
Stewart

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

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Deadline for copy: The
fifteenth day of the month
prior to publication. Editor
reserves the right to edit for
content and space.

Financial Secretary: Joy Garapic
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FIRST CLASS

