

Our 2020 Vision

Pentecost Sunday

May 31, 2020

Our 2020 vision is based on:

- BUCC Mission
- BUCC Core Values
- Affirmation of Welcome
- BUCC Covenant
- Identity Statement
- **BUCC Constitution**
- **OCWM Bulletin Board**
- **Congregational Profile - 2004**
- **Congregational Profile – 2003**
- **Role and Mission – 1990s**
- **Commons Plaque**

These are good, standalone statements, with proposed minor revisions after reviewing comments from survey.

These have been merged in to one “Vision 2020” text, and reformulated using comments from survey.

With additional revisions from our Council

BUCC Mission

- To be loving, serving, and accepting of all people with God's life-changing power and grace.

On our Walls

BUCC



MISSION:

LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
ALL PEOPLE WITH GOD'S LIFE-
CHANGING POWER



Brecksville

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

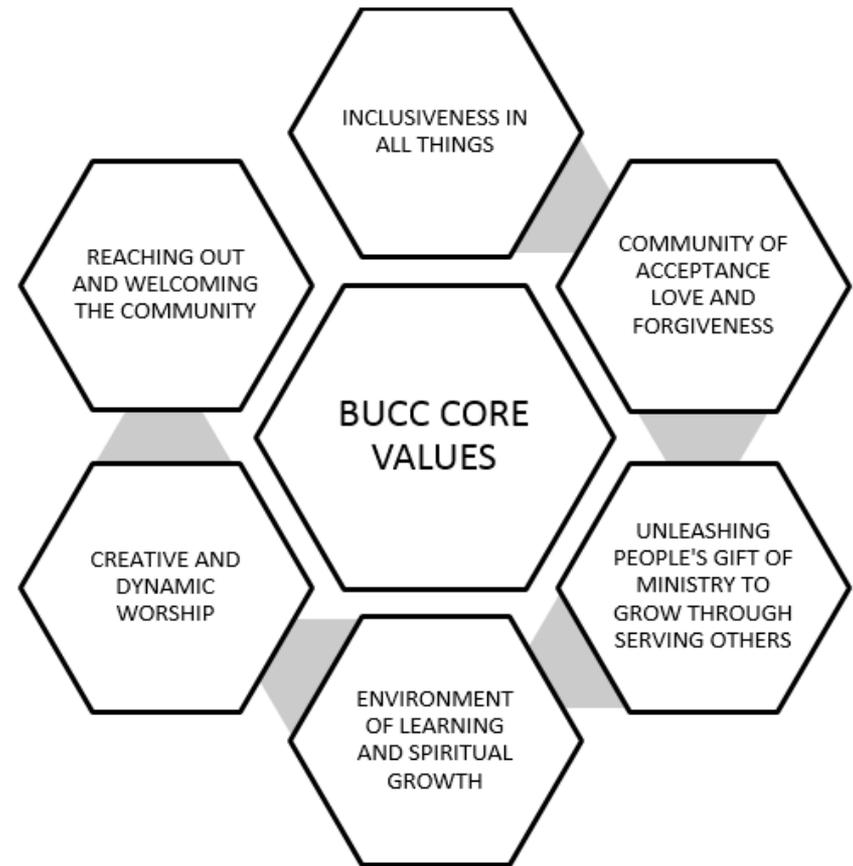
*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

In our Bulletin

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

BUCC Core Values

- Be a community of acceptance, love and forgiveness through inclusiveness in all things
- Encourage personal growth and individual gifts of ministry through serving others
- Provide an environment of learning and spiritual growth
- Enjoy creative and dynamic worship
- Reach out in kindness and welcoming everyone by inviting others to join us



Affirmation of Welcome - 2020

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments,
or mobility needs,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

We welcome one another to this place, even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!

BUCC Covenant

Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ our savior, we dedicate ourselves and our church to the service of God's realm. Depending, as did our forebearers, upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into truth, we covenant with God and one another to worship, work and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives the love and faith of Jesus Christ.

Identity Statement

Who Are We?

- *We are parents, singles, couples, teens, young children and seniors who seek to live out our faith daily in our varied walks of life. We come from diverse denominational backgrounds, which may include: Congregational, Evangelical and Reformed, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Lutheran, or having no past church affiliation.*
- *We are governed by a consensus of our members — we are not united by agreement in all things, but in all things by mutual concern. We hold a strong congregational faith in God as revealed in our Lord Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we believe God to be a God of love who calls us to a life of active, courageous love for God and neighbors everywhere. In Christ, as a banner in our narthex joyously proclaims, “WE ARE ONE!”*

BUCC Vision Statement - 2020

The purpose of the Brecksville United Church of Christ is to be a vital and faithful Christian community in ministry and mission. We understand our church as called by God to be:

- Open and responsive to the gifts given to us through the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Earnest in seeking to learn God's will for us through prayer, worship, the study of the Bible and our Judeo-Christian heritage.
- Intentional in our witness by giving love, thoughts, treasure, and actions in many ways through ministry to each other, and through mission in our city, in our nation, and throughout the world.

BUCC Vision Statement – 2020 *(continued)*

By being open and responsive, we mean:

- Our congregation is warm, friendly and loving with members who are at varying stages of their faith and life journeys and come from diverse religious backgrounds. We want to be challenged to grow in faith, stewardship and outreach.
- We offer support and nurture to our members and visitors.
- Having chosen to be a part of the United Church of Christ, a mainline denomination in the free church tradition, we are governed by a consensus of our members. We counsel together with respect for each other's opinions and feelings so that the unity we achieve may be rich and strong.
- In 1991, we became an Open and Affirming Congregation, as recognized by the United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.
- In all aspects of our life and mission, we are committed to minister to all and receive the God given gifts of every person with respect, appreciation and gratitude.

BUCC Vision Statement – 2020 *(continued)*

By being earnest in our worship and study, we mean:

- We worship in a manner that is balanced between traditional and innovative. We gather together in our sanctuary, in small group settings, and even virtually, to celebrate our faith.
- As we share our beliefs, and as we link together in our firm faith in God, we seek to live by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We resolve to be a thinking, caring, loving church in our place and in our time.

BUCC Vision Statement – 2020 *(continued)*

By being intentional in our witness, we mean:

- Our Congregation has a long history of involvement in social issues and outreach programs. In 1971, the national United Church of Christ named us “A Just Peace Church:”, in recognition for our commitment to ministries for peace and justice.
- One of our key ministries is “Our Church’s Wider Mission”, through which we:
 - Feed the hungry
 - Share our gifts
 - Respond to human tragedies and natural disasters
 - Serve to meet vital human needs
 - Celebrate diversity without division
 - Share joyfully with “the last and the least”
 - Together, serve God’s people
- We see ourselves as all being ministers of the Gospel in this work and witness.

BUCC Vision Statement – 2020 *(continued)*

Celebrating over 200 years of history, and in keeping with our established role and mission, looking to the future, our goals are:

- To be a church which provides opportunities for each of us to grow in our knowledge of God, in the depth of our own faith and in our relationship to each other
- To grow our congregation, with members giving evidence of our Christian stewardship through the offering of their time, talent and treasure, enabling our ministries to thrive.
- To eliminate our annual operating deficit.
- To support the national United Church of Christ's wider mission through financial support of at least 10% of our budget.
- To seek new possibilities of serving additional needs in our wider community and take appropriate action.
- To be aware of future developments for downtown Brecksville and plan for the use of our church facilities accordingly.