



THE
Pillar
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 2022



Leyendecker, Joseph Christian. *The Three Wise Men.* ca. 1900

TO BE LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
OF ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

Pastor's Ponderings.....

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands." Psalm 19: 1

I recently learned that the sky above our heads is an illusion. Nothing seems more constant than the stars in the sky, which remain in the same relation to each other, night after night. The few heavenly bodies that didn't stay fixed in position were so exceptional they got a special name: 'wanderers', which in Greek is "planetes", or planets.

But the stars aren't where we see them because it takes light a finite amount of time to travel from them to us. It takes light about 8.3 minutes to get to us from the sun. From Rho Cassiopeiae, a candidate for the most distant star visible with the naked eye, it's taken 8,200 years for the light to get to us. The light we see tonight from Rho C. started travelling towards us at the end of the last ice-age, when the most sophisticated humans were learning to paint their hands on cave walls.

But stars are also in constant motion, moving around the galactic center at various rates. Our own sun and solar system orbit the galactic center, too. In fact, because of that rotation around the galactic center, when the dinosaurs roamed the earth, they literally lived on the other side of the galaxy from where we are now!

Where we see the stars each night is not where they are, but where they were, anywhere from 4 years ago to 8,200 years ago. We are looking into the past when we look up at the stars, observers in a galactic time machine. The stars have all moved on from where we see them, some a little, and some a lot. And because that amount is different, the reality is that they were never in the pattern that we observe in the night sky. Rho Cassiopeiae is 8,196 years of travelling further on than Alpha Centauri, the closest star to earth besides the sun, at a mere 4 light years distance. And all of that is almost nothing compared to the Andromeda Galaxy, also visible with the naked eye, which is about 2.5 million light years away. Humans weren't even humans when that light headed our way, but an undreamt-of future of our australopithecine ancestors, who were then just beginning to use stone tools! Andromeda is now nowhere close to where we see it in the sky. The sky above us never was the way we see it. It is a patchwork of pasts, and each star we see comes from a different time!

(continued)

Pastor's Ponderings..... (continued)

From all of this, I want to agree with the Psalmist: the heavens do indeed proclaim the glory of God! What a magnificent spectacle across time God has provided for us each night as we gaze into the past, to see light that is older than the human race itself! How patient God has been to set up a universe that is so much older than the humans God now calls children, and so full of wonders for us to discover. God waited a very long time for us to appear!

As we begin a new year of faith, let us do so with wonder at the God who has called us into faith. Let us strive to share God's patience as we wait for things to change, and work towards building our part of God's kingdom on earth. Our present is watched over by the light of the past each night, and by the God who made the stars to shine so long ago. Amen

FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



FACILITIES

RENTAL & MAINTENANCE – We have rented the Arlington house to Nicole Smith and her husband. She and her family are long time members of the church.

The “Sunday Snow Herder” has been added to the Breeze Church Management system. We are actively seeking volunteers from now through the first Sunday in April. (Please find this position listed at the bottom of the *Sunday Worship Sign Up Sheet**.)

We have changed our elevator service contract from Gable to Davis and Newcomer. They will provide quarterly inspections.

New batteries have been installed in the fire alarm system by Protegis Fire and Safety, at the cost of \$613.00.

*The link to the signup sheet appears in the email that you get every week – if you are not receiving this weekly email, call Anne at 440-526-4364.

FINANCE



Thanks to donations from members and friends, the \$14,000 air conditioner bill is *fully paid!*

More good news is that \$605 has been collected for the Giving Tree. This collection benefits the Prentiss Autism Center (Positive Education Program).

OCWM

Many thanks to those who have donated non-perishable food items, and please keep them coming! Please don't forget those who are hungry, especially with the cold weather upon us. The following canned* items are very useful:

- Any type of beans, meat and/or fish (low sodium if possible)
- Vegetables and fruits
- Low sodium stew, chili or soup (especially containing beans or meat)

***Cans that don't require a can opener are most helpful.**

Other things that really get put to good use are:

- Instant rice and quinoa
- Whole grain crackers, cereal and pasta
- Nuts and nut butters
- Granola bars and dried fruit
- Instant mashed potatoes and shelf-stable powdered milk
- Salt and dried herbs & spices
- Cooking oil

NOTE: Please avoid donating items with glass or cellophane packaging, which can be broken in transit.

So the next time you're headed to the grocery store, please add something from these lists. Please place donations in the basket by the church office door – we will make sure that they reach the distribution centers. Thank you!



SPIRITUAL LIFE

OUR MUSIC MINISTRY will “rev up” again for 2022 the week after January 1st. The following are the starting dates and times for each ensemble:

- **Dulcimer/recorder ensemble** (all ages welcome): Thursday Jan. 6th, from 5:00-5:30 PM.
- **Joyful Noise Choir** (K-5th grade): Thursday Jan. 6th, from 5:30-6:15.
- **Adult Choir** (high school students welcome): Thursday Jan. 6th, from 7:00-8:15 PM.
- **Percussion group** (6th grade and older): Practices as needed on Sunday mornings before service begins.

Instrumentalists in the congregation are encouraged to share their musical gifts during Sunday worship. If you play an instrument reasonably well and would like to share your talent on a given Sunday, please contact Dave Debick and he will mark you on the calendar. All are welcome!



FLOWERS – Flowers in the chancel area add a special touch to our Sunday morning worship. Our flower ministry is small in numbers and would welcome more members to help us out. Please consider joining us - you don't have to be a florist, an artist or anyone special to come up with an original arrangement, or just a vase of colorful flowers. All ideas are worth exploring and make the chancel beautiful for all of us to enjoy. Please contact the church if you'd like to participate – either by email at **buccoffice23@gmail.com**, or by phone at **440-526-4364**.

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMAIL SCAM ALERT! Unfortunately, someone pretending to be Pastor Allan has again sent emails to a few of our members, containing a request for money or a personal reply. Please always remember that Allan would NEVER request money in an email or a text. It appears that someone made up a new address - that is completely unconnected from our church – that looks like Pastor Allan's email, but most assuredly is not. Please DO NOT REPLY to these emails, as it's best to report them as "spam" (or "phishing", depending on your email provider), and then delete them. We are taking every measure to prevent this from continuing. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact **Anne** at **440-526-4364** - and thank you for your patience!

CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S new "Digital Navigators" service offers one-on-one assistance to help you – or someone you know – connect to the internet, get a device, set up a telehealth appointment and more.

Digital Navigators can also help you find out if you are eligible to receive the **Emergency Broadband Benefit**, a temporary FCC program that helps families find reliable, affordable internet access. The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband internet service
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer or tablet purchased through a participating provider



Call **216-749-9420** to make an appointment with a Digital Navigator at a Cuyahoga County Public Library branch.

GENERAL INFORMATION (*continued*)

COUNCIL would like to encourage members to share what they are doing, and to be able to ask other members to participate. However, the concern is that the BUCC email address list will fatigue quickly, if used to announce outside events and requests for volunteers. For this reason, the following policy has been created:

"The BUCC email system is used for official BUCC communication only. This includes events that BUCC is sponsoring or participating in, as a Church. That said, council agrees that members should be able reach out to the congregation, and to request participation in events that are not officially sponsored by BUCC.

Examples of events sponsored by BUCC include but are not limited to: The Mitten Tree, Hunger Meals, Social Justice Book Club, Fundraisers and any other ministry-specific information, BUCC sponsored events or local/community news that directly impacts BUCC.

Examples of events not sponsored by BUCC include but are not limited to: Political Demonstrations, Local events/news, Member-specific announcements and/or personal requests, Scouting, School Fundraisers or ticket sales for community theater, etc.

For events that are sponsored by BUCC, the Office Manager will use her discretion as to whether the communication should be distributed by email, posted in the Sunday bulletin, or published in the monthly Pillar."

For events that are not sponsored by BUCC, the member is encouraged to publicize their information by posting in the BUCC Facebook group, making an announcement at the appropriate time during the weekly service, and/or making an announcement at coffee hour.



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

Miles	Ferfolia	January 03
Maxwell	Hunt	January 07
Sue	Maier	January 07
Janet	Renovetz	January 18
Dorothy	Cook	January 22
Jonathan	Cook	January 30
Cliff	Cribbs	January 31

***If you have a JANUARY birthday and are not included above,
please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC
Birthday List!**



CALENDAR

JANUARY 2022

Sat., JAN. 1



Sunday, JAN. 2

10am Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 3

Tue., JAN. 4

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., JAN. 5

Thu., JAN. 6

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., JAN. 7

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 8

3-5pm Meet & Greet

Sunday, JAN. 9

10am Worship Service
Followed by Congregational
Meeting

Mon., JAN. 10

Tue., JAN. 11

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., JAN. 12

Thu., JAN. 13
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., JAN. 14

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, JAN. 16

10am Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 17

Tue., JAN. 18
11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., JAN. 19

Thu., JAN. 20
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., JAN. 21

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 22

Sunday, JAN. 23

10am Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 24

Tue., JAN. 25

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., JAN. 26

Thu., JAN. 27

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Choir

Fri., JAN. 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., JAN. 29

Sunday, JAN. 30

10am Worship Service

Mon., JAN. 31

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

JANUARY 2, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Comns Grtr: Joe Began
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: Tia Began
A/V: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Janet Renovetz &
Sue Stenzel
Setup/Serve: TBD
Snack: Jill Zedan
TBD
Cleanup: Dave Bernard
Snow Herder: Cliff Cribbs

JANUARY 9, 2022

Head Usher: Jon Thompson
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
TBD
Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Comns Grtr: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Sue Stenzel
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Snack: Jon Thompson
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

JANUARY 16, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Snack: Sue Stenzel
TBD
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel
Snow Herder: TBD

JANUARY 23, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Jon Thompson
TBD
Lay Reader: TBD
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Flowers: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Snack: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

JANUARY 30, 2022

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: TBD
Setup/Serve: TBD
Snack: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

The Pillar

is published monthly by the

Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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FIRST CLASS