



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2021



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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

"And Mary gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." – Luke 2:7

"Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited." – Thomas Merton

The world that Jesus was born into had no room for him. It had no room for him when he was in his mother's womb, so he was born in a stable, and laid in a manger, a trough where the animals ate.

King Herod had no room for Jesus after the wise men came seeking the newborn baby who was born 'king of the Jews.' There was only room enough for one king in this world. Herod killed all the male babies born in Jerusalem in the last two years, just to be sure, but Jesus had already escaped from Judea to Egypt and survived the massacre.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees and the chief priests had no room for Jesus and his radical new theology. Jesus put love and human need above the rules of the Law, all while claiming that his actions fulfilled the Law. They tried to trick Jesus, dishonor him, and discredit him. Ultimately, they worked to have him put to death, because their world had no room for him.

Rome had no room for Jesus. Jesus called for an allegiance which was higher than nationalism, higher than patriotism, higher than race, or class, or party. Rome already had an emperor who was owed total allegiance, and Caesar wasn't sharing any room with Christ. Rome put Jesus to death.

And yet, even when people were unwilling to make room for him, Jesus found a way to make room for himself. That's why the dying words of the Emperor Julian the Apostate (d. A.D. 363), who had tried to turn the Empire back to paganism after its conversion to Christianity, were "*Vicisti Galilaeae*", which means "You have won, O Galilean."

As Thomas Merton said, *Jesus comes into this world uninvited*. But once here, he found a place in the hearts of the little people, of the poor and the outcast, of the downtrodden and the picked on. He found a place in the lives of those who thought their lives were over and were struggling with despair. He found a place in the consciences of those whose consciences wouldn't give them peace until Jesus arrived. And he found a place in the hopes of those who were facing death, their own or of someone they loved. The baby born in Bethlehem and resurrected in Jerusalem, will always find a place with those who let him in. In a world still too ready to reject Jesus, may he find a place with you this Advent time. Amen



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

SIGNING UP TO HELP WITH SUNDAY WORSHIP – Here are some instructions to explain how the Virtual Signup Sheet works. In summary:

1. Every week, an email is sent out with a link to the virtual signup sheet for the coming weeks. Please note that the email will come from:
buccoffice23_rt+gmail@breezechms.com
which you may need to add to your contact list, so the email does not go into spam. The subject will always be “Sunday Worship Sign Up” Sheet”.
2. Clicking on the link (which is tailored just for you) takes you into the signup sheet.
3. You can scroll through the different roles, seeing who is signed up for each week. As seen on a computer, the list shows 4+ dates across. Dates highlighted in blue mean you have already signed up, and a **bold date** means that at least one opening exists. If the date is grayed out, it means that all positions have been filled.
4. You can click on any open date and sign up.
5. You can also click on any date with your name on it to opt out of that week.
6. Then press [Submit] to record your changes.
7. You can use that same link as many times as you like.



SIGNING UP TO HELP WITH SUNDAY WORSHIP (continued)

Scroll Down to find the role you want:

The 'Counter' sign-up sheet displays a grid of dates and roles. The dates are: Sun Sep 19, Sun Sep 26, Sun Oct 3, Sun Oct 10, Sun Oct 17, Sun Oct 24, and Sun Oct 31. Each date has a 'Click to Sign Up' button and a 'Current Volunteers' list. The roles listed are: Marge Culver, Nancy Stella, and John Thompson.

As seen on a computer, the list shows 4+ dates across. *Note: on a smart phone, you see a long list that is 1 date wide.*

Select the dates and roles you want:

Clicking on a date will "sign you up" and highlight it in blue. If you need to cancel, just click on a date you have signed up and it toggles back to "open".

The diagram shows two smartphone screens. The left screen shows the 'Usher' sign-up sheet with the date 'Sep 19' highlighted in blue. The right screen shows the same sheet with the date 'Oct 3' highlighted in blue. A red arrow points from the 'Sep 19' date on the left screen to the 'Oct 3' date on the right screen, indicating the toggle action.

Sign up for as many dates as you want. When you are done, press the [Submit] button to record your changes.

Submit 1 Sign Up

You can return to the signup sheet as often as you like. Finally, if all this fails, you can always contact **Anne Melfo** at the Office, or **Betsey Wilson** and they can sign you up.

FACILITIES

RENTAL & MAINTENANCE – We have new tenants in the Arlington house. The rent has been increased from \$800 per month to \$850. We are purchasing a dehumidifier for the house's basement, at a cost of \$200, as the basement is very damp and we don't want any mold or health issues.

The church elevator is in need of repair, and an estimate is pending with Gable Elevator.

Contributions to the air conditioner fund have reached \$11,000+, out of the \$14,000 that it cost upon reopening. Thank you for your continued generosity!

We have been unable to secure a company to repair the parking lot/driveway this year. Companies are scheduling for spring. We will purchase some bags of cold patch to repair the area by Make A Wish, to get us through until spring.

We are still waiting on bids for the narthex and parlor lighting, as there are supply issues.



OCWM



LAST-MINUTE MART – Join us on Saturday, December 18th, in Pilgrim Hall from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm for the resurrection of our annual BUCC winter tradition, where you and your family, friends and fellow community members can purchase a variety of gift items for all the people on your list (or for yourself—we won't tell!). Each of the vendors have also donated fantastic items that you can win in our raffle! All table and raffle proceeds will go to our

friends at the **Refugee Response**, who support new arrivals to Cleveland. Any questions may be directed to Moderator Heidi Spangler, at heidi@heidihoonthego.com. We can't wait to see you there!

UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING – On Sunday, December 19th, the Christmas Fund offering will be received. This offering helps to meet the needs of retired and low-income clergy, and lay employees of the UCC. The fund works throughout the year, not just during the Christmas season. The dollars given to the Christmas Fund go directly to those who have served or are serving the church, especially in moments of critical need. Included are health premium supplementation, monthly pension supplementation, Christmas "Thank You" gift checks, and emergency grants for such things as large medical expenses or home damage from natural disasters. Please be generous, as these funds are critical for a sustainable quality of life for these "veterans of the cross".

SPIRITUAL LIFE

- **GET READY FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR!** – We will resume Fellowship Hour in all its glory starting on Sunday, December 5th, after the Congregational Meeting. In order for this to be successful, we need volunteers to help. The jobs are posted in Breeze for signups, descriptions are below:
- **Setup/Serve:** Two to three people who arrive by 9:30 to set up downstairs. This includes putting out the coffee/tea cart and any other beverages, setting out the snacks, plates, etc, and generally making sure that Fellowship Hall is ready before the service starts. They will also help out as needed with serving, during coffee hour. Detailed directions will be provided in the kitchen.
 - **Snacks:** Two to three people who provide snacks for the Fellowship/Coffee Hour. This can include cookies, chips, pastry, fruit, etc. - generally enough for 50 people. You don't have to attend the service to provide the snacks, as they can be delivered during regular office hours the week before.
 - **Cleanup:** Two people who stay through the end of Fellowship/Coffee hour to clean up and store any leftovers, clean and put away the beverage service equipment, and ensure that Fellowship Hall is left ready for the next event.

We are requesting that those who are not vaccinated continue to wear masks while in Fellowship Hall. For those that are fully vaccinated masks will be optional.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

CHRISTMAS MUSIC – Our Seasonal Choir has been preparing special music for the 2021-2022 holiday season, in lieu of a full-fledged cantata. These anthems will begin on December 19th and run through Epiphany in early January. We hope that you will find these pieces inspiring and uplifting!

FLOWERS – Many thanks to those who are providing flowers for DECEMBER's services:

12/05 Janet Renovetz

12/12 Tia Began

12/19 Poinsettias

12/26 Poinsettias



POINSETTIAS – We are currently taking orders for poinsettia dedications. For a donation of \$12.00, a poinsettia will be placed around the communion table in honor of your loved one. If you would like to participate, please call **Anne** in the church office, at **440-526-4364**.



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

12-04	Doug	Fawcett
	Jon	Thompson
12-06	Kevin	Smith
12-12	Betty	Einhart
12-13	Grace	Hunt
12-20	Jim	Duffy
	Naomi	Klonowski
12-21	Bob	Chandler
12-25	Linda	Kriynovich
12-28	Dan	Stewart
12-29	Amy	Coyer-Westerberg

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



CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2021

Wed., DEC. 1

Thu., DEC. 2

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:40pm Choir

Fri., DEC. 3

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., DEC. 4

Sunday, DEC. 5

10am Worship Service
**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Mon., DEC. 6

Tue., DEC. 7

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., DEC. 8

7:15pm Council Meeting

Thu., DEC. 9

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:40pm Choir

Fri., DEC. 10

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., DEC. 11

Sunday, DEC. 12

10am Worship Service

Mon., DEC. 13

Tue., DEC. 14

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., DEC. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Thu., DEC. 16

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:40pm Choir

Fri., DEC. 17

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., DEC. 18

Sunday, DEC. 19

10am Worship Service

Mon., DEC. 20

Tue., DEC. 21

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., DEC. 22

Thu., DEC. 23

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:40pm Choir

Fri., DEC. 24

10pm Christmas Eve
Service

SATURDAY



Sunday, DEC. 26

10am Worship Service

Mon., DEC. 27

Tue., DEC. 28

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., DEC. 29

Thu., DEC. 30

5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir
7:40pm Choir

Fri., DEC. 31

OFFICE CLOSED

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER 5, 2021

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Jane Cribbs
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Setup/Serve: Sue Maier
Snack: TBD
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

DECEMBER 12, 2021

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

DECEMBER 19, 2021

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

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: TBD
TBD
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Betsey Wilson
Flowers: Poinsettias
Setup/Serve: TBD
Snack: Dorie Gabor
TBD
Cleanup: TBD
Snow Herder: TBD

The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

