



THE *Pillar*  
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DECEMBER 2022

Come let us  
*Adore*  
Him



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

## ***Pastor's Ponderings.....***

♪ "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" ♪ For families all around our community this season is filled with many activities. Sometimes it can seem exhausting. I hope that you will find a respite in your church community, a place of peace to replenish your spirit. Church at Christmastime is not just one more activity to add to the list. It is rather, a re-centering. Let it be your spiritual grounding that restores meaning and purpose to all the other busy-ness.

Here are some of the ways I hope your church community can be a place of spiritual restoration:

**The season of Advent is already underway.** It gets confusing, because all around us, advertisers promote the idea that the Christmas season goes from Thanksgiving until Christmas day. But Christmas was the church's idea in the first place; and for us, the Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and ends ♪"on the twelfth day of Christmas," January 6. The four Sundays before Christmas are Advent, a time of spiritual nourishment. Allow yourself space for extra prayer. Read our Advent meditations, written by BUCC members. Let it be a gift to yourself. Keep a space clear in your hectic schedule to pray and meditate during Advent.

**The Christmas Cantata** is an annual tradition at BUCC. Our Choir has been working on it for months already. If the fire of your Christmas spirit has grown dim, then come and get stoked on December 11<sup>TH</sup>.

**Christmas Eve** service begins at 10:00 p.m. As always, it will be a candlelight service. This year, we will add the option of holding an LED candle, instead of a lighted candle. That way everybody can safely participate. Obviously, this is one of the most sacred of all our gatherings. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. It is full of nostalgia for Christmases past, and hope for Christmases future. But all we really have is Christmas present. Make a plan and invite your family to gather at church on Christmas Eve, so that they can create some memories of their own.

***(continued)***

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

**Christmas Day is Sunday.** Please note that we'll gather for Sunday prayer, however this will be a minimal service. Based on historical data of Sunday Christmases, we expect attendance to be sparse. That's understandable, as many of us will be with families on Christmas morning. No guilt. But Sunday is Sunday, so we will gather, of course. But expect a more minimal, casual service. The big Christmas service is Christmas Eve.

It's true. 🎵“There's no place like home for the holidays.” So invite your family to come home for Christmas, back home to church. Let your extended family know how much it would mean to you if they could join you again back in your church home. We are family here. Especially at Christmas, we gather, we pray, we support one another, and we celebrate. Christmas blessings to you and yours.

- Rev. John King





## *FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC*

### **COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH**

With our new church membership software, signing up to help with BUCC Church Services should be “a Breeze”. Here are some instructions to explain how the Virtual Signup Sheet works.

In summary:

1. Every week or so, an email will be sent out with a link to the virtual signup sheet for the coming weeks.
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.
4. You can click on any open date and signup.
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.

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

## **FACILITIES**

**PREPARING FOR WINTER** - It's that time of year again when the Facilities Ministry is looking for "snow herders" to attack the winter snows. The parking lot and entrance driveways will be cleared by a plow company, so all that we need help with is clearing snow from two entry ways on Sundays. Those areas include the back doors & the side ramp. Shovels and salt will be stationed at both doors.

Please sign up for a specific Sunday using the Breeze management system - Thank you for volunteering!

## **FINANCE**

A check was sent to Living Water Association for 3rd quarter basic support, along with \$401 for Neighbors in Need and \$145 for Strengthen the Church.

Boxes of pew envelopes will be available for pick up in the commons area. This is the last year we will order boxes because many members use PayPal and other electronic means to pay their pledges. There will be envelopes available in the pews to use for contributions. These envelopes can also be used to mark if a member contributes electronically.

In an effort to keep our congregation informed, the Finance Ministry would like to provide you with a quick overview of our current finances as compared to 2021. All of these projections are subject to change on a monthly basis.

|                                | <b>10/31/2022</b> | <b>10/31/2021</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total Cash Available           | \$249,097         | \$299,395         |
| Short Term Liabilities         | \$ 11,863         | \$ 7,617          |
| Net Cash Available             | \$237,234         | \$291,777         |
| Actual Deficit YTD             | (\$ 49,470)       | (\$ 35,571)       |
| Projected Zero<br>Cash Balance | 3.7 Years         | 3.9 Years         |

## OCWM

One  
person  
can  
~~only~~  
do so  
much

**LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN** - For people of faith, voting and sharing our ideas on public policy is a way of living out Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor. Many of you participated in our postcard writing event opposing Ohio HB616. In October, parishioners wrote 60 letters to encourage marginalized people to vote, and in November, letters were sent to members of Congress to urge support for asylum seekers.

We'll continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month to write to our legislators. Drawing on resources endorsed by the UCC, we'll make our voices heard on issues that matter to us. The next session will be on Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:15 pm, at the Panera in Brecksville. The tentative topic is Global Warming.

We'll provide sample texts, address labels, stamps, paper or postcards, even pens! All we need is YOU! This is an informal and open event. Maybe grab a drink or snack; hang out with good friends while we write. It will be a fun way to engage with others and make our voices heard.

Questions? Contact Ann Kelley or the church office at 440-526-4364.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **BUCC's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA HAS RETURNED!**

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 AM service, our choir will present "Adore Him," a celebration of Christmas in worship and praise, written by Ken Bryars. Many musical styles are represented in the score, including festive Hebrew folk song, ancient chant, contemporary ballad, Jamaican, reggae, Mideastern/Arabian, Gospel, and traditional holiday carol. The choir will be supported by several instruments and narrators David Pastor and Carol Miller. Please plan on joining us for the return of this joyous holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

**2022 CHRISTMAS SERVICES** - A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 10:00 pm on Saturday, December 24. An informal Christmas Morning Service will be held on Sunday, December 25<sup>TH</sup>, downstairs in Pilgrim Hall at 10:00 am. We will enjoy traditional carols, sharing, scripture and prayer. Pastries and coffee will be provided. All are welcome!

## **STEWARDSHIP/LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT**

**WELLNESS ON WEDNESDAYS** - The Stewardship Ministry has great news! Carol VanDuyn has offered to continue "Mindfulness and Meditation" sessions on Wednesdays, from 11am-noon in the Parlor. All are welcome, whether members of BUCC or not. Free will offerings are suggested.

The Leadership Development Ministry wants to remind everyone that it is time to offer your time and talent as an officer, ministry chairperson, or ministry member for this coming year. Some positions that need to be filled include: Assistant Moderator, Clerk, OCWM Chairperson, Facilities Co-chairperson, Staff/Congregation Relations Chairperson, and also all ministries could use some new members with fresh ideas. Please prayerfully consider how you can help BUCC move forward and continue to grow! Contact Bridget Sproul or anyone else on the Stewardship/LD Ministry to discuss how you can be part of a ministry.

## Notes & Announcements:

**MEMORIAL FOR BILL TONEFF** - There will be a memorial service in the sanctuary for Bill on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1:00 pm. All are welcome!



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING –

There will be a post-worship congregational meeting on Sunday, December 4. This is an annual meeting to approve a provisional budget and the slate of officers for the 2023 church year. This is NOT the final budget approval meeting -- that gathering will be held mid to late January, per usual. Please plan on attending; this is a congregationally-led church, so your voice matters!

**FLOWERS** – The following members have volunteered to provide flowers this month:

**Dec. 4 – Sherrill Witt**

**Dec. 11 – Dorie Gabor**

**Dec. 18 – Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel - Poinsettias**

**Dec. 25 – Janet Renovetz & Sue Stenzel - Poinsettias**



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

|       |                  |             |
|-------|------------------|-------------|
| Doug  | Fawcett          | December 04 |
| Jon   | Thompson         | December 04 |
| Grace | Hunt             | December 13 |
| Jim   | Duffy            | December 20 |
| Naomi | Klonowski        | December 20 |
| Bob   | Chandler         | December 21 |
| Linda | Kriynovich       | December 25 |
| Dan   | Stewart          | December 28 |
| Amy   | Coyer-Westerberg | December 29 |

***\*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 2022

### Thu., DECEMBER 1

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

### Fri., DECEMBER 2

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Sat., DECEMBER 3

1pm Memorial Service  
for Bill Tonneff

### Sunday, DECEMBER 4

10am Worship Service  
**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

### Mon., DECEMBER 5

### Tue., DECEMBER 6

8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

### Wed., DECEMBER 7

### Thu., DECEMBER 8

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

### Fri., DECEMBER 9

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Sat., DECEMBER 10

### Sunday, DECEMBER 11

10am Worship Service  
🎵 *CANTATA* 🎵

### Mon., DECEMBER 12

### Tue., DECEMBER 13

8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:15pm Letter Writing  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

### Wed., DECEMBER 14

### Thu., DECEMBER 15

**\*PILLAR DEADLINE\***  
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer  
5:30pm Joyful Noise  
7pm Choir

### Fri., DECEMBER 16

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Sat., DECEMBER 17

### Sunday, DECEMBER 18

10am Worship Service

### Mon., DECEMBER 19

### Tue., DECEMBER 20

8:15am "Holy Grounds"  
(Brecksville Panera)  
6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

### Wed., DECEMBER 21

### Thu., DECEMBER 22

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

### Fri., DECEMBER 23

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Sat., DECEMBER 24

**10pm Christmas  
Eve Service**

### Sunday, DECEMBER 25

**Christmas Day**  
10am Worship Service

### Mon., DECEMBER 26

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Tue., DECEMBER 27

6:30pm AA in Pilgrim Hall

### Wed., DECEMBER 28

### Thu., DECEMBER 29

### Fri., DECEMBER 30

**\*OFFICE CLOSED\***

### Sat., DECEMBER 31



**PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP****DECEMBER 4, 2022**

Head Usher: Jill Zedan  
Ushers: Dave Bernard  
Evelyn Seager  
Lay Reader: Sherrill Witt  
Greeter: Sue Stenzel  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Sue Stenzel  
Acolyte: TBD  
Peace Candle: TBD  
A/V: Fred Pedersen  
Flowers: Sherrill Witt  
Snack: Dave Bernard  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
TBD  
Cleanup: TBD  
TBD  
Snow Herder: TBD

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: Dave Bernard  
Evelyn Seager  
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy  
Greeter: Bill Witt  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: TBD  
Peace Candle: TBD  
A/V: Fred Pedersen  
Flowers: Dorie Gabor  
Snack: Sue Stenzel  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: Sue & Cliff  
Stenzel  
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel  
TBD  
Snow Herder: TBD

**DECEMBER 18, 2022**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: Evelyn Seager  
Sue Stenzel  
Lay Reader: Rose Kaval  
Greeter: Sherrill Witt  
Counters: Marge Culver  
Janet Renovetz  
Acolyte: TBD  
Peace Candle: TBD  
A/V: Jim Duffy  
Flowers: Janet Renovetz &  
Sue Stenzel  
Snack: Jon Thompson  
TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
Cleanup: TBD  
Snow Herder: TBD

**DECEMBER 24, 2022**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: TBD  
TBD  
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Greeter: Carol Miller &  
Pat Rehm  
Acolyte: TBD  
Peace Candle: TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

**DECEMBER 25, 2022**

Head Usher: TBD  
Ushers: Evelyn Seager  
TBD  
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley  
Greeter: Jon Thompson  
Counters: Janet Renovetz  
Sue Stenzel  
Acolyte: TBD  
Peace Candle: TBD  
A/V: TBD  
Flowers: Janet Renovetz &  
Sue Stenzel  
Snack: TBD  
Setup/Serve: TBD  
Cleanup: TBD  
Snow Herder: TBD

# *The Pillar*

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FIRST CLASS

