



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 11TH.

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.

	10/31/2022	10/31/2021
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 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 13th, 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 11th 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 25TH, 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 VanDuyne 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 3rd, 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 Toneff

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
Rose Kaval
Sherrill Witt
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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