



THE *Pillar*
BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 2021

GIVE
Thanks
WITH A
GRATEFUL
heart

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

Pastor's Ponderings.....

Say "Yes"

But the angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. - **Luke 1: 30-35, 38***

At the recent Heartland Conference Annual Gathering, keynote preacher Rev. Dr. Imani Jones spoke to the gathering about the power of saying 'Yes' to God. Using this text, Rev. Dr. Jones pointed out how frightening it must have been to Mary to see the angel. And then how much more frightening it must have been to hear God's plan as the angel set it out!

Mary was a young girl, maybe 14-16, and she was going to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. What must have gone through her head? "How do I tell my parents?" "How do I break this to Joseph?" "What will the people of my village say when they find out I'm pregnant? Will anybody believe me?"

We take it for granted that of course Mary would say 'Yes' to God. But she was a real person, with real fears about what a pregnancy might mean for her, quite apart from the responsibility of being the mother of someone who would be called 'the Son of God.' That would freak anybody out all on its own.

(continued on next page)

Pastor's Ponderings (continued)

But, in spite of all her fears, Mary said 'Yes.' Everything in Christian faith begins with this 'Yes.' Jesus was born when and where he was, because Mary said 'Yes' to God. All the power and the glory, all the healing, teaching, forgiving, reconciling, and resurrecting of Jesus comes from that 'Yes.'

So what would it mean for you to say 'Yes' to God this year as we go through the church season of Advent? What would God ask you to do? What would frighten you about saying 'Yes', and would you say it anyway, as Mary did? What could God accomplish through you, if only you would say 'Yes'?


FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC



COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

OUR YOUTUBE LIVESTREAM – For those who cannot join us in person, please watch our "Live-Stream" on YouTube. The simplest way is to go to our website at: www.brecksvilleucc.org/live.



- Pressing play  will start the live-stream. If you click before we've started, it will notify you when the video is scheduled to begin.
- After the service and through the following Thursday, the recorded service from the previous Sunday will be available for replay.

Please go to our "**Upcoming and Recent Services**" page (under the "Worship" tab, in the horizontal blue bar), to download and print the Bulletin. You can also replay earlier services from this page, by clicking on any of the dates listed.

Please contact **Jim Duffy** at jmorganduffy@gmail.com, or by calling **216-644-2784**, if you have any questions.

FACILITIES

OUTSIDE, INSIDE AND ALL AROUND - The parking lot is in need of repair and estimates are being sought, in hopes of having this project completed before bad weather season.

Estimates for light conversion to LED, in the parlor and the narthex, are being pursued. This will almost complete the conversion to LED throughout the church.

We want to thank those members who have contributed to the air conditioner fund. At this time, we have received over \$10,000 toward the \$14,000 cost. If you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so.

CHURCH RENTAL HOUSE AVAILABLE – We currently have a 2-bedroom unit available in the church's rental house on Arlington Ave.

The unit consists of an eat-in kitchen, with dining and living rooms on the lower level. The upstairs has 2 bedrooms and 1 full bathroom. The unit comes with a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer, 1 parking space in the garage, and two additional parking spaces. There is no central air-conditioning, but the unit can accommodate window units. The monthly rent is \$850.00 and will require a credit and background check, signing a 1-year lease and providing an \$850.00 security deposit. Tenant will be responsible for paying their own gas, electric, cable and internet. Water and sewer charges are taken care of by the church.

Showings for the unit can be scheduled through the church office, starting November 1st. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

BRINGING BACK FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Now that we've had in-church services for a few months, it's time to talk about bringing back Fellowship Hour! For those of you who have been to a service, you know that everyone is already congregating (masked!) in the narthex and hallways, for a while afterwards. To acknowledge this, we will be opening up Pilgrim Hall for Fellowship Hour according to the following schedule:

November 2021: Pilgrim Hall will be available for BYO snack/beverage gatherings, on Sundays after the service. There will not be people scheduled for set up, serving, snacks or cleanup, so we will count on those who gather to clean up after themselves.

December 2021 and Beyond: We will add the roles of "Setup/Servers," "Snacks" and "Cleanup," to the Breeze Participant Sign-up Sheets, for services starting in December. Assuming that we have volunteers, we will work our way toward re-establishing a more "normal" Fellowship Hour for all.

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



Coffee Fellowship

SPIRITUAL LIFE (continued)

CHRISTMAS SEASONAL CHOIR - Even though the Spiritual Life Ministry has decided against presenting a cantata this year (due to Covid and limited seating in sanctuary), we will be organizing a seasonal choir to help with special music during the holiday season. These practices will be held weekly on Thursday evenings, starting November 4th from 7 - 7:40pm. The music we prepare will be presented during the second part of December and early January, at our regular Sunday services. All are welcome to participate, including high school students. Contact Dave Debick at **buccmusic23@gmail** or through the **office** at **440-526-4364**, with any questions.



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

11/07 Sue Stenzel

11/14 Dorie Gabor

11/21 Carole Snider

11/28 Julie Bernard

STEWARDSHIP

“**ROOTED IN LOVE**” is the theme of this year’s Stewardship Campaign. During the first few weeks of November, some members will be sharing their experiences and involvement with BUCC during our Sunday services. You will be receiving a letter from our Moderator, Heidi Spangler, and a pledge card in the mail for you to fill out and return on Stewardship Sunday, November 21. Your pledge is essential for planning the budget for 2022. We will have a celebration after the service that day, to reconnect and come back together. We are calling it our “Rooted in Love Fest!” Come down to Pilgrim Hall after the service to learn about our ministries, have food and beverages, participate in contests and win prizes. If you can’t come in person, you can still participate via Facebook Live. Come be part of it all at BUCC!

PASTOR SEARCH & NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our BUCC Church Profile was posted in early July, and the Committee had received an impressive 15 candidate profiles as of last week.

After much discussion and research, the Committee has chosen 6 people for further consideration. In-person interviews with these candidates have taken place during the last week of October and continue through the first week of November. We ask for your patience and your prayers, as we seek to make a successful choice for BUCC.

-- Sherrill Witt, Co-Chair PSNC



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

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| November 2: | Miriam Rosewicz
Mike Westerberg |
| November 3: | Dassie Matsuoka |
| November 9: | Sue Stenzel
Amelia Tyler |
| November 13: | Dan Maier |
| November 14: | Joe Gagliano |
| November 17: | Caroline Chandler
Andrew Wilson |
| November 22: | Tim Wallis |
| November 23: | Wes Novak |

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



Calendar

NOVEMBER 2021

Mon., NOV. 1

Tue., NOV. 2

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., NOV. 3

Thu., NOV. 4

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

Fri., NOV. 5

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOV. 6

Sunday, NOV. 7

10am Worship Service

Mon., NOV. 8

Tue., NOV. 9

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., NOV. 10

7:15pm Council Meeting

Thu., NOV. 11

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

Fri., NOV. 12

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOV. 13

Sunday, NOV. 14

10am Worship Service

Mon., NOV. 15

PILLAR DEADLINE

Tue., NOV. 16

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., NOV. 17

Thu., NOV. 18

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

Fri., NOV. 19

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOV. 20

Sunday, NOV. 21

10am Worship Service

Mon., NOV. 22

Tue., NOV. 23

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

Wed., NOV. 24

Thu., NOV. 25



Fri., NOV. 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., NOV. 27

Sunday, NOV. 28

10am Worship Service

Mon., NOV. 29

Tue., NOV. 30

11am Pastor's Office
Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Sue Stenzel
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Counters: Marge Culver
Nancy Stella
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Annette Pedersen
Sound: Fred Pedersen
Flowers: Sue Stenzel

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Head Usher: Sue Maier
Ushers: Dorie Gabor
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Comns Grtr: Peg Duffy
Counters: Marge Culver
Jon Thompson
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Sound: TBD
Flowers: Dorie Gabor

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Carole Snider
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Comns Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Counters: Marge Culver
Dorie Gabor
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Sound: TBD
Flowers: Carole Snider

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Head Usher: TBD
Ushers: Evelyn Seager
Dorie Gabor
Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Comns Grtr: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
TBD
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: TBD
Sound: TBD
Flowers: Julie Bernard

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The Pillar

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FIRST CLASS

