

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming all of God's children.

If you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are Asian, Hispanic, Black, or White,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are male, female, or transgender,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are 3 days old, 30 years old, or 103 years old,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you've never been in a church, if you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic,
Or a life-long member of the UCC,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual,

You Are Welcome Here!

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person with differing abilities,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,

**We welcome one another to this place,
even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!**

WELCOME TO VISITING PARENTS

We offer several child care options and fun activities for kids during worship hour:

- ✧ Infants and toddlers will be cared for in the nursery.
- ✧ Kindergarten through seventh grade will go to class after the Word to Young Worshipers.
- ✧ Crayons and paper for children are also available from ushers.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave, and join us for refreshments in Pilgrim Hall downstairs following the service. If you are interested in learning more about our church, or becoming a member, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for one. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Williams Sound Personal PA receiver available for your use in the sanctuary. Pillows for your back support are also available.

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

DECEMBER 8, 2013 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Meditation Music

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Teach Me Lord to Wait

Hamblen

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

L: We come to you, O God, with our hopes and our joys.

P: We gather at your table, seeking your strength and your peace.

L: We lay our lives before you, in anticipation of your being with us.

All: We thank you, O God, for your gracious presence, now and always!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

***Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Holy God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred and injustice. We turn now to your saving help. Forgive us, renew us, lead us, and show us how to prepare for your coming among us. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and will never change: God has loved us, loves us still, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ.

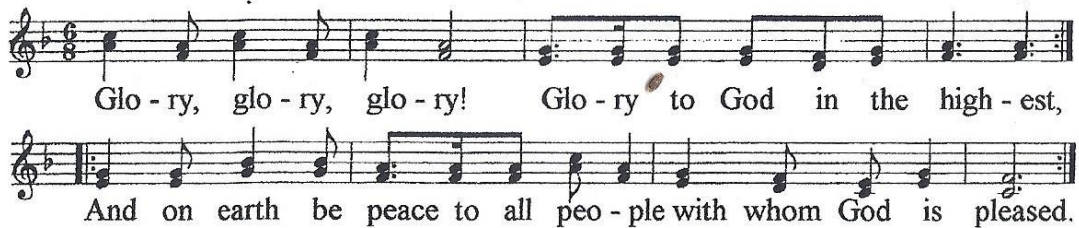
The Peace of Christ be with you!

P: And also with you!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Reception of New Members

Friends in Christ, each of us are received into the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We find strength and support to live-out our baptism, by connecting with a local faith community. Today, we rejoice that our faith journeys have brought us to this time and place. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit has led us to Brecksville United Church of Christ; and that on this day we can welcome others who desire to officially claim and celebrate this Family of Faith as their own.

Questions to our new members - Pastor

I ask you:

Do you desire to affirm your faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Do you promise to show your dedication to Christ, by showing love and compassion to others?

Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church, by celebrating Christ's presence here and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

***Affirming our BUCC Covenant of Membership [in unison]**

Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our church to the service of God's Realm. Depending as did our fathers and mothers upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and with one another to worship, work, and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives, the love and faith of Jesus Christ.

***Words of Welcome**

Let us, the members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ, express our welcome to these new members and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

P: We welcome you with joy into the life of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in Divine knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

***Prayer** [Unison]

L: Let us pray.

All: Gracious Holy One, we are grateful that you have called us to faith and have welcomed us into the Church, the Body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this place, and the opportunities we have to build-up one another in love. May your compassion - and our own - continue to flow within this faith community, and throughout the world! Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

*As the first Advent Candle is lighted, we will sing the first verse of the hymn,
One Candle Is Lit*

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as flowers, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the Hope of the Age.

L: Bless to our use, O Holy One, this shining light.

P: Let it reflect our hopes and dreams, as we prepare for your coming.

L: Shine through the darkness and enlighten our lives,

P: That we may see the signs of your coming among us.

L: Warm our hearts and illuminate our souls,

P: That we may rejoice in the knowledge that you are with us always

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Send Your Word

Koyama (Japan)

The Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible, page 631

The New Testament

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible, page 27

Continuing Testamen

by Ben Witherington

in *Commentary on*

Matthew

Sermon

See the Signs, Be the Signs

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

We Hail You God's Anointed
[verse 1]

#104

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer *[the additional use of "Mother" is optional, according to One's theological understanding]*

...Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Organ Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory

Hope

Schubert

***The Doxology**

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

*** Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

Gracious God, in this Advent season you call us to make our world ready for you once more. We present these gifts as a sign of our commitment to do so - by serving others in need and advancing the work of your Church. Bless these offerings that we present here today, and bless us each day in our giving and in our living. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to us in Breaking Bread

#342

The Thanksgiving

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in God's presence!

L: Let us give thanks for God's Holy Love!

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

L: Because, O God, you faithfully come to redeem your people, we give you thanks and praise your Holy Name, saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Communion Music

Patience, People

Foley

“Steady your hearts,
for the Lord is close at hand.”

John Foley (b. 1939)

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Divine Source of Life and Love, with joy we have received this Sacrament of Bread and Cup, remembering the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unite us with your faithful people throughout the world, that together we may continue Christ's ministry of love and service, to the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

#117

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

Circle of Fellowship

*As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallehujah** (3 times) **Hallehujah, Hallehujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it through once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, A.

*Commission and Benediction

Postlude

Redeemer of the nations, come

Plainsong, Mode 1

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Forbes Family, The Family of Vonda Ward, The Family of Nancy Foose, Doug Lightbody, Bill & Ann Toneff, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, Effie Pappas, Betty Batsch, people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections or changes to our prayer lists.)

Attendance Sunday, December 14, 2013 –Adults: 93 Kids: 18 Total: 111

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Dan & Jan Renovetz in Celebration of our 55th Wedding Anniversary.

HERE WE COME A'CAROLING! On Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 pm, our youth, children, and adults will meet at the church to go caroling to our homebound members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special greeting to those members who cannot regularly join us for worship. We will return to the church around 4:00 to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING! Please join us directly after worship today for our congregational meeting, in which we will present the proposed budget and review the slate of ministry members for 2014. This should take 15 minutes and your attendance is appreciated. If you have any additional items to discuss, please contact Pastor Dave or Diane Gressley.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA DEC. 15: This year's Christmas cantata, *Once in Royal David's City*, will be presented on Sunday Dec. 15 at our 10 a.m. service. The adult choir will be joined by seasonal choir members, instrumentalists and narrators to retell the ancient story of Christ's miraculous birth to the Virgin Mary in a lowly stable some two thousand years ago. The work is comprised of both traditional and contemporary music. Please join us for this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

DOUG LIGHTBODY is now receiving rehabilitation services through Mentis Ohio, located in Stow. The address is Mentis Ohio, 3625 Marsh Road, Stow, OH. 44224. Doug would gladly welcome your cards and words of encouragement, as well as a short visit in the evening or on weekends. Directions to Mentis Rehab are available in the Church Office.

SHARE IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT OF GIVING! Our annual Christmas Adopt-a-Family project will have a new name this year: Adopt-an-Individual. We hope the whole congregation will reach out generously as they always have. Some of the items that would be appreciated are: queen-sized sheet sets (flannel or regular), blanket or two, Bedspread (non-bulky, velour-like) bath towel sets, kitchen towels, potholder (no Mitts), and dishcloths, gift cards for stores such as T J Maxx, Kohl's, Target, Dots, etc, and of course the always welcome checks to BUCC [noted "Adopt-an-Individual], or cash with the same notation on the envelope.] More info and suggestions will follow in the December Pillar.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament -Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the house of the Holy One shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Holy One, to the house of the God of Jacob; who may teach us the Holy way, that we may walk in the paths of righteousness." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Holy One from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Holy One!

The New Testament -Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus says, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Divine Source. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Continuing Testament - by Ben Witherington - in *Commentary on Matthew* [edited]

God reveals enough about the future to give us hope, but not so much that we do not have to live and walk by faith day after day. We have assurance about the things hoped for, and conviction about the things not yet seen, but what we do not have is a timetable in the Scriptures, nor would that have been very helpful anyway.... In the days Before Cell phones [B.C. as I like to call it], my grandparents used to call us and tell us they were coming for a visit. Since they sometimes stopped various places along the way, we weren't sure when they would get here. This meant we had to always be prepared for

their arrival. It was the certainty of their coming, not the timing, which motivated this behavior of being ready at any moment. So it also is with Jesus' exhortation to "Keep awake and be ready!"

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 12/8/2013	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Congregation Meeting
	5:30 pm	Percussion Group
Wednesday 12/11/2013	6 am	Early Birds
	7 pm	Council
Thursday 12/12/2013	1pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7-9 pm	Cantata Practice
Saturday 12/14/2013	9 am	Facilities
	10-11:30am	Cantata Rehearsal
Sunday 12/15/2013	10 am	Worship *Cantata*
	11 am	*Congregation Meeting*
	5:30 pm	Percussion Group

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 8, 2013

LAY READER: Jim Duffy
HEAD USHER: Jon Thompson
USHERS: Joe & Betsey Wilson, Drew Wilson, Beth Oravec
ACOLYTE: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
PEACE CANDLE: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
SOUND: Max Roha
COMMONS GRTR: Betty Gifford
NARTHEX GRTR: Joanne Cook
FLOWERS: Jan Renovetz
NURSERY: Robin Coyer-Westerberg
COUNTERS: Jim Kaul, Carole Snider
SERVERS: Darlene, Emily & Celia Kelly
CLEAN-UP: Jon Thompson & Jan Renovetz
SNACKS: Pat Bailey & Kate Klonowski
SNOW HERDER: Cliff Cribbs

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 15, 2013 CANTATA

LAY READER:
HEAD USHER: Max Roha
USHERS: Matt Wolberg, Sam Koch, Sue Maier, David Ritchey
ACOLYTE: Naomi Klonowski
PEACE CANDLE: Arthur Oravec
SOUND: Chad Sproul
COMMONS GRTR: Ann Kelly
NARTHEX GRTR: Dorie Gabor
FLOWERS: POINSETTIAS
NURSERY: Shauna Bigelow
COUNTERS: Donn Whyte, Anna Mary Fisher
SERVERS: Sue Stenzel & Dottie Farwell
CLEAN-UP: Bob Chandler & Pat Bailey
SNACKS: Marge Culver & Ruthie Thorpe
SNOW HERDER: Chad Sproul