

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

NOVEMBER 9, 2014 – TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, throughout our lives we face many different and difficult choices. Guide us with your Spirit's wisdom and compassion, so that in all our decisions we might do what is helpful to others, pleasing to you, and [therefore] beneficial to our own wholeness and peace. Amen

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

While I'm Waiting

Waller

“While I'm waiting, I will serve You,
While I'm waiting, I will worship.
While I'm waiting, I will not faint.”
John Waller (b. 1970)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Wherever we are, we are never alone,

P: Our Creative Source is always with us!

L: When we walk or when we fall,

P: God's Spirit raises us up!

L: When we feel trapped or when we soar free,

P: Divine Love surrounds us.

L: When we are in shadow or in the light,

P: God's Compassion shines upon us!

L: In this time and place, and wherever we may be,

All: The Holy One is with us! Let us rejoice and give thanks!

***Hymn of Praise**

Praise to the Living God

#8

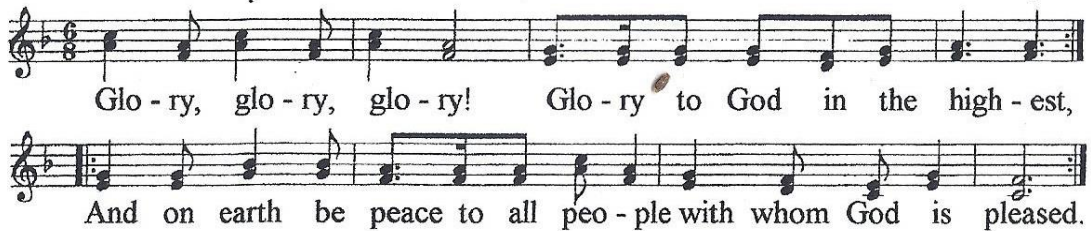
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, in whom we live and move and have our being: we have gathered in your presence to sing your praise and to hear your Word for our living. Gather up the prayers of each of our hearts into one harmony of worship and service, that we might truly be One Body in Christ. Accept the words of our praise, and the actions of our grateful response. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Old Testament

from *Joshua* Chapter 24

Pew Bible, page 215

New Testament

Matthew 25:1-13

Pew Bible, page 28

Continuing Testament

Blessed to be a Blessing

Anne Melfo

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

I Want to Be Ready

African-American spiritual arr.
Cleveland/Nix

Sermon

If You Had to Choose, Right Now....

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

#531

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

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho

African-American spiritual

*Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, Creator of all things: it is a joy and a blessing to present our lives to you and to share our gifts with one another. As we offer ourselves and these contributions to the work of your Holy Realm, help us to be mindful and grateful of all that we can do together as the Living, Loving Body of Christ in this world! Amen!

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

* Circle of Community

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

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E written above. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A written below.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue in D minor

Roberday

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Vicki Szabo & Family, the Family of Ruth Thorp, Doris Schmid, Don & Eleanor Kusa, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Attendance Sunday, November 2, 2014 – Adults: 87 Kids: 15 Total: 100

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshipping with us today. Please sign our Guest Book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for Coffee Hour.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by James & Valerie Tyler in Celebration of Amelia Tyler's First Birthday.

THIS SUNDAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY and representatives from **OCWM, Finance, Flowers,** and **Women United** will be available in Pilgrim Hall for a question and answer session. Please take this opportunity to talk with these representatives about their ministry. It is our hope that each of you will find valuable information to help you decide where you might share your time and talent in 2015.

ADVENT BOOK DEADLINE is one week from today, November 16. Please submit your Scripture reading via email to Jeannette at buccoh@sbcglobal.net Thank You!

WOMEN UNITED - Our next meeting is 11/19 at 11:30 am. Bring a Bag Lunch – Coffee & Tea Provided. We are pleased to have Genny Costanzo as our guest speaker. Genny is the Senior Development Officer of Hospice of the Western Reserve, as well as a Member of BUCC. She will give us the information we all need to know as well as answer our questions regarding Hospice Care. See you then! All are Welcome!

MUSIC REHEARSALS FOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Dave Debick has begun teaching the songs for BUCC's 2014 youth musical (pageant), titled "Christmas Play by Play," during Joyful Noise practices Thursdays at 5:30. The baseball-themed musical will be presented on Sunday Dec. 21 at regular morning worship. If your child is a cast member in the pageant, these music practices (along with the CDs) are the easiest ways to learn the songs. Dave will be handing out music CDs during coffee hour (and at Joyful Noise practice) over the next couple weeks to everyone participating in the pageant. Any questions or concerns, please speak with Dave, Sue Maier or Mindy Harris. All youth – including high schoolers – are welcome to take part in this annual holiday event.

THE MITTEN TREE needs Mittens, hats, scarves, socks to decorate n the Narthex.

WE ARE IN NEED OF A WHEELCHAIR. If you have one to donate please see Bob Chandler.

MARY NEEDS HELP--Most of you have already met Mary D'Agostino (she sits with Jane Cribbs in church). Transportation has become a problem for her lately, since she has had an increase in doctor appointments. She is working with the City of Broadview Hts. to arrange help from them, but does have personal needs for transportation as well as medical. If you think you'd like to help her with this, her contact info is in the new directory. She'd love to hear from you!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! As you will note, this month we are singing our offering song with new words to the same tune. Our Spiritual Life Ministry Team realized that the words we have been singing say little about our giving. It was decided to try to change this. Now we would like your contributions for additional options. You don't need to be a trained musician nor an accomplished poet. The differing outlooks of our youth, our golden-agers, and those in between will add the spice of variety. Just put your feelings into wording that reflects your own expressions of our Sunday morning offering. They could be suitable for any time of year, or they might be seasonal [Christmas, Easter, Spring, Fall, etc.] Have fun verbalizing you thoughts, rearranging them, playing with various word options, and finally arriving at your expression of thanks. Please submit your ideas [or questions] to Pastor Dave or Dave Debick, who will share them with our Spiritual Life Ministry members. And, voila, you will have found new words of praise that will add depth to our BUCC worship experience! Our thanks to Max Roha for coming up with this idea, and offering us this month's Offertory Hymn!

THE PEACE CANDLE is placed up front every Sunday to remind us of Jesus' teachings on peace and peacemakers. We pray that peace between nations, within our country, community, families, and ourselves will become a priority for all.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedule in the office calendar. This is used to list your dates and times in both the ***Weekly Bulletin*** and in the monthly ***Pillar***.

BUCC ONLINE CALENDAR Please be sure to check day to day meeting schedules, events, and doings at BUCC at www.BrecksvilleUcc.org. Updates are made frequently.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, Etc.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - from *Joshua* Chapter 24

[After Joshua and the Israelites flatten the walls of Jericho with a blast of trumpets, the way is paved for their taking the land of Canaan. As they prepare to settle in this new land, Joshua presents the people with a challenging choice.]

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Holy One, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere and serve the Holy One in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the One True God....

Now if you are unwilling to serve the Holy One, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the old gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River, or the new gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Holy One." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Holy One to serve other gods; for it is the Holy One who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight."

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Holy One, who is a perfect and commanding God, One who will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Holy One and serve foreign gods, then God will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Holy One!”

The New Testament - Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus says, “The Realm of Heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 11/9/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour & “Ministries Fair”
	6 pm	Confirmation
Tues 11/11/2014	10 am	CWRU
Wed 11/12/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7 pm	Council
Thurs 11/13/2014	1pm	Bible Study
	4:30 pm	Crafters for Christ
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8 pm	Choir
Sat 11/15/2014	9 am	Facilities
Sunday 11/16/2014	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Stewardship Thanksgiving Banquet

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE
NOVEMBER 9, 2014

Lay Reader: Jill Zedan
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Joanne Cook, Kathy Smith
Dan Stewart, Ian Stewart
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Cndl: Drew Demko
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: George Snider
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Peg Duffy
Counters: Donn Whyte, Anna Mary Fisher
Servers: Joy Garapic, Caroline Chandler
Clean-Up: Kathy & Dave Pastor
Snacks: Anne Melfo, Lenore Harris

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
NOVEMBER 16, 2014

Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Head Usher: Caroline Chandler
Ushers: Spencer Whyte, Donn Whyte
Dorie Gabor, Kathy Smith
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Cndl: Lily Hunt
Sound: Val Duffy
Comns Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Nartex Grtr: Dot Bailey
Flowers: Tina Ortiz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Stu Bailey, Jim Duffy
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor
Snacks: Thanksgiving Dinner – Cliff
& Sue Stenzel

Best Laid Plans

Emily C. Heath

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." - James 4

I'm pretty good at making long-term plans. This is not new to me. By the time I was 9 I had my life trajectory planned out. I was going to go to the Naval Academy and become a pilot. Nothing was going to stop me.

So, none of that happened. And that's probably for the best because it turns out I really don't like flying that much. But that doesn't stop me from planning. I have plans for writing, plans for ministry, and plans for a retirement that's over 30 years away.

But here's what I've found about my plans: God is generally pretty good at interrupting them with something better. Like, I think I'll spend my entire ministry in the Deep South, and instead I wind up a New Englander. Or I say I'll never pastor a church, but then I fall in love with pastoral ministry. Or, I decide marriage is probably not for me, and then I fall head-over-heels for the woman who becomes my wife.

James reminds us that we are good at making plans, but we aren't so good at knowing our limits. I don't mean that we aren't good at knowing the hundreds of things that can go wrong. Instead I mean that too often we have views of our future that are way too limited. We don't know what doors God is going to open for us. And we have no clue how we will end up underestimating God's plans for us.

So instead, what would it be like to set a new agenda that includes only this: "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that"? For all of us planners it may be terrifying for a while, but I'll bet it will be worth the ride.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to clear our agendas, and to hand them over to you. Amen.