



## **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](mailto:buccoh@sbcglobal.net) – web address: [www.BrecksvilleUCC.org](http://www.BrecksvilleUCC.org)**

## NOVEMBER 30, 2014 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **Meditation Music**

Gracious Holy One, in our times of waiting may we be aware that we do not wait alone, for you are with us. May we also be aware that others wait in far more trying circumstances, for food to eat and freedom from injustice and oppression. Help us to help them in whatever ways we can. Amen.

### ***Gathering in God's Presence***

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

#### **Prelude**

Oh, That Your Salvation and Your Rescue

Lee

“Oh, that your salvation and your rescue  
would swiftly come to renew your people.”

David Lee, 2010

#### **\* Call to Worship**

Leader: In the growing darkness and cold of winter,

**People: The glowing light and warmth of Divine Love sustains us!**

L: We are here to seek Light among the shadows,

**P: We come to find hope for our hurting lives!**

L: The Holy One calls us from separation and apathy, into unity and faith.

**P: The Holy One brings us renewed healing and peace!**

L: In the midst of our everyday living, our Sacred Source speaks to us anew.

**P: The Holy One is our shelter, our strength, and our guide!**

L: People of Faith, let us hope and trust in our Divine Creator,

**All: The One who has made us, and holds us forever secure!**

#### **\* Hymn of Praise**

O How Shall I Receive You

#102

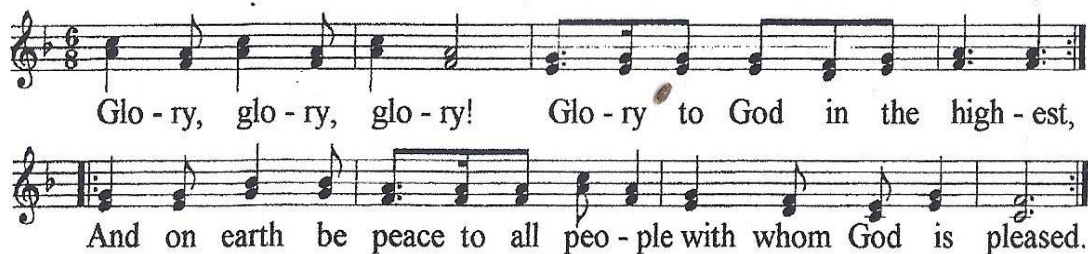
#### **\* Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

**We encounter you, O Holy One, in places we might not expect, in people we would never imagine. Sometimes we see you clearly and sometimes we pass by without seeing you at all. Open our eyes to see you in the here and now - among the people in this congregation, and among the strangers we meet outside these doors. Open our hearts to receive the Good News: that you are, and always will be with us. Open our mouths to proclaim the glory of your everlasting love and grace! Amen.**

\* **The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**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!**

**The Old Testament**

Isaiah 1:11-20

Pew Bible, page 630

**The New Testament**

Mark 13:26-37

Pew Bible, page 50

**The Continuing Testament** from *Two Minute Warning*

by Russell Levenson

**Time with Young Worshipers**

**Musical Offering**

Patience, People

Foley

**Sermon**

*Consider This Your Wake-up Call*

Pastor Dave Shackle

***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**

Quatuor sur le Kyrie

Anglebert

**\* Offertory Hymn**

**Our lives are good, not much we lack;  
Some of our gifts we now give back.  
We seek to help, to clothe, to feed,  
To hold the hands of those in need. Amen.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]**

**Gracious Holy One, 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. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Example, and Friend. 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 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.



### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Redeemer of the Nations, Come

Plainsong, Mode 1

### **PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Rudy Lorenzo, Dan Renovetz, Addy Baldwin, G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, 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 23, 2014 – Adults: 90 Kids: 17 Total: 107

### **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 our Coffee Hour.

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Dassie Matsuoka & Daughters in Memory of James Matsuoka

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** – This year's Christmas cantata, *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, will be presented on Sunday December 14 at regular morning worship. More information about the cantata can be found in December's Pillar newsletter. We hope you can join us for this BUCC musical tradition.

**THE BUCC LIBRARY** encourages you to take a look at our Advent and Christmas books, as well as the other books on the red book cart. Some of our Advent and Christmas books for adults and teens are on the top shelf, along with new and older copies of Still Speaking magazine. Recent additions to the library on a variety of subjects are on the second shelf. Some of our Christmas books for children are on the third shelf.

**FLOWER MINISTRY** Flowers are placed in the front of the church each Sunday to honor/celebrate your family/friends/events. We need your help in getting this information to our office manager, Jeannette, before she prepares the Bulletin on Thursdays. It's easy as 1-2-3.....

1. Put your name on the chart hanging on the west wall just inside the door to the narthex.
2. Fill out the information form found in the pocket below the chart.
3. Turn this information form in to Joy Garapic.

The flower ministry does not want to miss sharing your joy by not having the correct information.

Our ministry is small in numbers and welcomes new members anytime. You don't have to be a florist, an artist or anyone special to come up with an arrangement or just a vase of colorful flowers. All ideas are worth exploring. If interested, please contact me at coffee hour, calling 330-467-9357 or [jrenovetz@gmail.com](mailto:jrenovetz@gmail.com). Thank you, Jan Renovetz

**COPY MACHINE** We will soon be getting a new Copy Machine for the Office. The machine we are replacing still works, but it has a very high volume of copies on it. If anyone knows of any Group or Organization that could use a copy machine, we would like to donate it to them. Please let the Office know.

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

**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](http://www.BrecksvilleUcc.org). Updates are made frequently.

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

## ***The Readings***

**The Old Testament** - Isaiah 1:11-20

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Holy One; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation - I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. My soul hates your new moons and your appointed festivals; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us reason together, says the Holy One: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Holy One has spoken.



## **The New Testament** - Mark 13:26-37

*Jesus says, Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Sovereign One. Be on guard and stay awake; for you do not know when the time will come. It's like a person going on a journey, who when leaving, puts the servants in charge, each of them with their own tasks, and commands the doorkeeper to be on watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come - in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at sunrise - lest he find you asleep when he suddenly arrives. Therefore, what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!

## **The Continuing Testament** - from *Two Minute Warning* - by Russell Levenson [edited]

Jesus' words about his return are not designed to prompt people to fear, but rather to take action. In football, the "Two Minute Warning" doesn't indicate that the game is over, it announces now is the time get it in gear and really play! What Jesus' "warning" can prod us to do, is the primary duty of faithful servants: to care for the household in a way that if the Owner were to return today - or a thousand years from now - that Owner would be pleased to find the good stewardship the servants had carried-out. What might this look like for you and me today?

If this world and our lives are gifts entrusted to us from our Divine Creator, then it matters deeply that we believe this and live accordingly. It matters that we take seriously the call to follow Jesus' way of compassion and grace - because that was at the core of his life and teaching. It matters how we treat this world of ours, because we are called to care for the entire Creation. It matters deeply how we treat one another - how we live with our families, spouses, children, friends; how we care for our classmates, colleagues and coworkers. And it *really* matters how we treat strangers, the hungry, the homeless, the lonely, and the lost - those people who may not be in a position to repay our kindness. When we do these things well, we will not be afraid or worried or even surprised at the Owner's return - we will simply be overjoyed!

## **Opportunities for The Week**

<b>Sunday 11/30/2014</b>	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	OCWM
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6 pm	Youth Ministry
<b>Tuesday 12/2/2014</b>	7 pm	Membership
<b>Wed 12/3/2014</b>	6 am	Early Birds
	*No Recorder/Dulcimer*	
	7-9 pm	*Optional Cantata Rehearsal
<b>Thurs 12/4/2014</b>	1 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Music
	7 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:30 pm	Choir
<b>Saturday 12/5/14</b>	9 am	Facilities
	10 am	Confirmation
<b>Sunday 12/7/2014</b>	10 am	Worship Service
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	5-6 pm	Cantata Percussion Rehearsal

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**NOVEMBER 30, 2014**

**Layer Read:** Kathy Pastor  
**Head Usher:** Bridget Sproul  
**Ushers:** Dorie Gabor, Jim Duffy  
Sam Koch, Wes Novak  
**Acolyte:** Naomi Klonowski  
**Peace Cndl:** Olivia Klonowski  
**Sound:** Dave Bernard  
**Comns Grtr:** Caroline Chander  
**Narthex Grtr:** Sue Stenzel  
**Flowers:** Kathy Pastor  
**Nursery:** Kara Reese  
**Counters:** David Pastor, Carole Snider  
**Servers:** Darlene Kelly, Dorie Gabor  
**Clean Up:** Jan Renovetz, Jon Thompson  
**Snacks:** Susan Snyder, Mary Ann Hoppel  
**Snow Hrdr:** Jim Demko

**PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 7, 2014**

**Lay Reader:** Jon Thompson  
**Head Usher:** Anne Melfo  
**Ushers:** Cliff & Jane Cribbs  
Linda Kriynovich, Fred  
Pesek  
**Acolyte:** Briana Brown  
**Peace Cndl:** Lucy Brown  
**Sound:** Kevin Smith  
**Comns Grtr:** Marge Culver  
**Narx Grtr:** Joanne Cook  
**Flowers:** Jan Renovetz  
**Nursery:** Marla Corrado  
**Counters:** Nancy Stella, Jim Duffy  
**Servers:** Carole Snider Robin Coyer-  
Westerberg  
**Clean Up:** Geroqe Snider, Jill Zedan  
**Snacks:** Sue Maier, Diane Gressley

# **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH POINSETTIAS IN OUR SANCTUARY**



Your Donation will buy plants which will be shared after Christmas with those who are ill or shut-in, or have recently lost a loved one. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page, and turn it in to the Church Office

**DEADLINE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

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**I Enclose \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ or other \_\_\_\_\_ for Poinsettias**

**In Memory \_\_\_\_\_ or Honor \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_**

**Of \_\_\_\_\_**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I WILL HELP DELIVER PLANTS TO SHUT-INS \_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP YOUR  
POINSETTIA OR LEAVE IT HERE FOR SHUT-INS AND OTHERS\*\***

**WILL KEEP \_\_\_\_\_**

**WILL NOT KEEP \_\_\_\_\_**