

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 14, 2014 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Meditation Music

Joy is the resounding “note” for this third Sunday of Advent. However, a mere “note” is an adequate description of the musical delight we are about to experience this morning. Much better to say a resounding chord, or a wonderful symphony of joy! May our hearts be touched and our spirits enlivened in and through our entire worship experience!

Gathering in God’s Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Pachelbel

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: In Divine Goodness and Joy,

People: A Savior has been sent among us!

L: In Holy Compassion and Grace,

P: An Example has been set before us.

L: In Sacred Service and Selfless Sacrifice,

P: A New Way of giving and living has been revealed.

L: In Jesus Christ, God’s Beloved Child,

All: Heaven has once again touched the earth with Peace, Hope, Joy and Love!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#126

*** Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

Holy Source of Hope, Joy and Peace, as we approach another Christmas, fill us with your compassion and grace. Be with us today, as we celebrate your coming among us. Inspire us with your Spirit, so that in and through our music and praise, we might delight in you and bring glory to your Name. May this time of worship touch our hearts, and lead us toward a deeper commitment to your loving service. This we pray in the name of Christ our Savior, Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy

L: Our third Advent Candle is the Candle of Joy.

P: Joy to the world, our Savior comes!

L: The Light of Christ brings hope and joy to our turbulent world;

P: The Light of Christ brings hope and joy to our troubled lives.

L: May the Light of Christ's love shine brightly in us and through us,
P: That we might bring hope to others and fill the world with joy!

[As the Candles are lighted, we will sing the following verse of *One Candle Is Lit*]

Come festively sing, while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

The Old Testament	Isaiah 61:1-3; 10-11	Pew Bible, page 691
The New Testament	from First Thessalonians Chapter 5	Pew Bible, page 205
The Continuing Testament	from <i>Sent to be Joyful</i>	by Bruce Prewer

Time with Young Worshipers

The Cantata – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

see insert

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

People, Look East

Traditional French carol

“People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.”
Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

* Offertory Hymn

We praise the Babe this time of year,
Sing carols to him whom we hold dear.
Our love, His power we now proclaim,
We send our gifts in Jesus’s name. Amen!

* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

Gracious Holy One, we lift up to you our songs of praise, our hearts of joy, and our gifts of love. Bless these gifts that they may be a source of blessing to others. Renew our lives, that we might use them to further the work of your Realm. These things we ask in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Going with God’s Love

* Hymn of Departure

The First Noel
[verse 1]

#139

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.

The musical notation is presented on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Staff 1:
Chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E
Lyrics: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Staff 2:
Chords: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A
Lyrics: Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Lo! He Comes

Arne, harm. R. Vaughan Williams

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, December 7, 2014 – Adults: 88 Kids: 19 Total: 107

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HARK! THE JOYFUL CAROLERS SING! Today at 2:00 pm, our youth, adults, and children will meet at the church to go caroling to our shut-in members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special Christmas greeting to those 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. All are welcome to join us!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS MUSICAL NEXT SUNDAY: On Dec. 21 at our 10 a.m. service, the young people of Brecksville UCC will present a holiday musical titled “Christmas Play by Play.” The musical features several original songs by Cathy Skogen-Soldner, and has a baseball theme. We hope you can join us for this uplifting presentation. Bring a friend!

THIS YEAR’S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE AT 10:00 pm. We will commemorate Jesus’ birth with carols and scripture, and celebrate Christ’s continuing Presence through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our service will conclude with our traditional Circle of Candlelight, as we receive and pass-on to others the Light of Christ’s love and peace.

CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY! The Community of St. Bridget, the group that worships here on Saturdays at 5 pm, will be celebrating Christmas with a service in our Sanctuary at 10 am. All BUCC members and friends are welcome to join them.

St. Bridget's is a progressive and inclusive Family of Faith, who - like our family - extend Christ's welcome to the Communion Table to all who are present. Our own Kate Klonowski's mom, Ann, will be leading the worship service.

WOMEN UNITED Our next meeting is December 17 at 11:30 AM, bring a bag lunch, Coffee and Tea provided. Please bring a gift for Saint Herman's shelter for men. Perhaps undershirts, briefs or boxers (size L or XL), white cotton socks, blue jeans (waist 30,32), hygiene items, Or food items such as coffee, canned tuna, peanut butter, etc., all items included on their needs list. Do not wrap. See you there. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS FUND Next Sunday, December 21th, we will receive the offering for the Christmas Fund. The funds are used to supplement pensions for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, for needs such as food, living and medical expenses, and for health premium supplementation such as for prescription medications. Also needed emergency grants are provided, and "thank you" gift checks for these veterans of the cross so they do not feel forgotten.

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

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.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS Canned Fruit & Vegetables

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 61:1-3; 10-11

The Spirit of the Holy One is upon me, because the Holy One has anointed me, and sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of Divine favor, and the day of retribution of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Holy One, to display Divine glory.

I will greatly rejoice in the Holy One, my whole being shall exult in my God; who has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Holy One will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The New Testament - from First Thessalonians Chapter 5

Saint Paul writes, We appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you, and watch over you, and admonish you in Christ. Esteem them highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Continuing Testament - from *Sent to be Joyful* - by Bruce Prewer [edited]

As Christians, we are ordered to share joy. Saint Paul says, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances.” Yet how can you command an emotion? Maybe joy is deeper than an emotion; maybe it is the totality of one’s being, responding to Divine Grace. Maybe we do have a choice in whether we are people of joy, or grumpiness. Maybe what we choose to think about and aim for, profoundly affects our state of being. Maybe the things we talk about with others, and the things we keep whispering to ourselves, do shape us. Maybe positive effort is required to live joyful lives. Maybe joy is the result of walking faithfully in the Light. There is evidence to suggest that this is so.

Look at others and see whether difficult circumstances hinder their joy. Consider those people whose joy seems to break through their pain and grief, disappointment and failures. It’s as if they possess a deep core which is not shaken by outward circumstances or inward dilemmas. Think about Jesus, the ultimate example of Light and Joy. Even when facing a horrible death, he spoke to his friends about his joy being within them, in spite of the traumas ahead. This joy is deeper than the depths of the Universe, deep as the very Soul of God. It is a Life stance, and a determined way of living - with hope, not pessimism; with love, not selfishness; with faith, not cynicism. It is a decision that must be made every day of our lives. The Joy of Christ takes into account all the negativity, the suffering, the betrayal, the cruelty of this entire world; and it still triumphs gloriously!

Opportunities for The Week

Sunday 12/14/2014	10 am	Worship Service/Cantata
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	2 pm	Caroling
Wed 12/17/2014	6 am	Early Birds
	11:30 am	Women United
Thurs 12/18/2014	1 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Music Practice
Sunday 12/21/2014	10 am	Worship Service/Pageant
	11 am	Coffee Hour
	BUCC Hunger Meal – Pearl Road United Methodist Church	

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 14, 2014

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Tina Ortiz, Ed Lusk
Acolyte: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Cndl: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Comms Grtr: George Snider
Nartx Grtr: Carole Snider
Flowers: Poinsettias
Nursery: Gina or Jon Cook
Counters: Dassie Matsuoka, Bruce McCain
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell
Clean-Up: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Snacks: Receptions
Snow Hrdr: Matt Wolbert

PARTICIPANTS NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 21, 2014

Lay Reader: Evie Novak

Head Usher: Jill Zedan

**Ushers: Jon Thompson, Wes Novak
Kate Klonowski, Matt Wolbert**

Acolyte: Ryan Stewart

Peace Cndl: Drew Demko

Sound: David Pastor

Comns Grtr: Ann Kelly

Nartx Grtr: Chad Sproul

Flowers: Poinsettias

Nursery: Kathy Pastor

Counters: Donn Whyte, Anna Mary Fisher

Servers: Marge Culver, Dottie Farwell

Clean-Up: Pat Bailey, Bridget Sproul

Snacks: Christian Education

Snow Hrdr: Wes Novak



2014 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Anonymous

In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.

Julie Bernard &
Linda Kriynovich

In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.

Bob & Caroline
Chandler

In Memory of Lucille Collison, Ruth Rice & others – gone but not Forgotten.

Joanne Cook

In Memory of my Husband Skip, Parents, and Twin Sister Jeanne.

Jane & Cliff
Cribbs

In Memory of Loved Ones.

Marjorie Culver

In Memory of her Husband Dick, and Brothers-in-Law Ron & Carolton.

Jim & Peg Duffy

Thanks to the Light that Alex, Indy, Evy, and Bash bring to our Family.

Dottie & Jim Farwell

In Memory and Honor of our Parents.

Anna Mary Fisher

In Memory of my Sister Dorothy and her Husband Jack.

Dorie Gabor

In Memory of her Husband, Steven Gabor, my Parents, and Siblings.

Joy Garapic

In Memory of William Garapic, Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather.

Diane Gressley

In Memory of Emma & Evan Gressley.

Phyllis Hassler

In Memory of Frank Hassler.

Diane Lightbody

In Honor of the Duda and Lightbody Family – here, and in their Heavenly Home.

Dassie Matsuoka &
Daughters

In Memory of James Matsuoka.

Anne Melfo &
Doug Fawcett

In Honor of Family & Friends we will miss this year.

Phyllis Molnar

In Memory of George & Bertha Ulsenheimer, my Parents, and Edward Molnar, Husband.

Novak Family

In Memory of Wesley Novak, Pamela Novak, Jason Copp, and all of those who live on in our Hearts & Minds.

Fred & Connie
Pesek

In Memory of our Parents.

Bettina Ortiz

In Loving Memory of Betty, Joseph, & Timothy Oritiz.

Eric Rahnenfuehrer

In Honor of Jan & Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer.

Max Roha

In Loving Memory David J. Roha, Mary C. Roha, and Lois L. Wallin.

Mariam R.
Rosewicz

In Memory of Family Members, and Loved Ones.

George & Carole
Snider

In Memory of our good Friend and Lovely Person, Debbie Busta.

Vicki Szabo

Im Loving Memory of Vic Szabo.

Jon K. Thompson

In Memory of my Family, Gone but not Forgotten.

Bill & Anne Toneff

In Memory of Elizabeth & C.C. Thornton, and Very & Milan Toneff

Donn Whyte

In Memory of Wayne Whyte.

The Joe Wilson
Family

*In Memory of Norinne F. Brownlow, and John M. Brownlow, Sr.
& Randall P. Trefzger.*

Bill & Shrill Witt

In Honor of Shirley Duncan& the Late Arch Duncan. In Memory of Bill & Mary Witt. In Memory of Jane R. Witt. In Memory of the Peart & Bishop Families. In Honor of all the Members of BUCC.

Jill Zedan

For all those whose hearts are struggling this Christmas Season.