

BRECKSVILLE

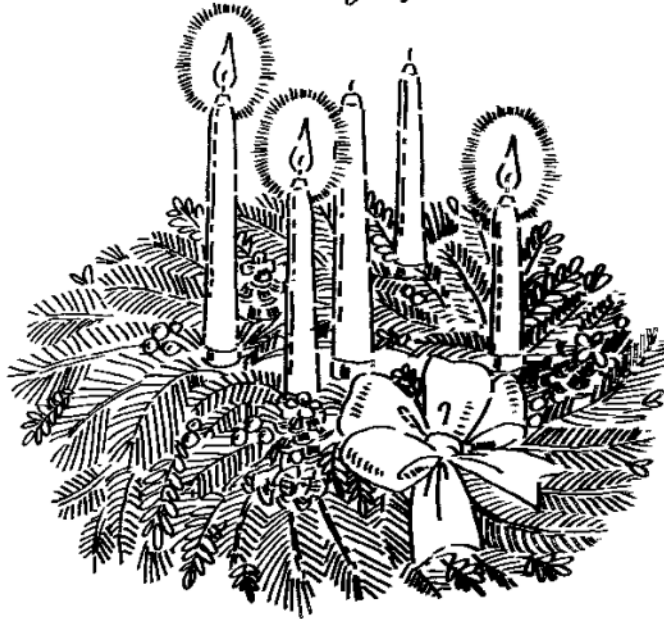
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

Divine Source of Music and Joy, Celebration and Light - fill us with your Holy Spirit this day and throughout this holiday season. May the familiar songs that we sing and hear, speak to us in new and inspirational ways. Make us willing instruments of your hope and peace, love and grace. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent



Sunday December 13, 2015 • 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor

• Rev David Shackle

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Ministers

• All of our Members

Office Manager – Jeannette Kroeger

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 13, 2015 – Third Sunday of Advent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we pray for all your people, young and old, who long for a world of safety and justice where they can live in dignity and peace. We pray that as you visited young Mary those many years ago with a vision of hope, that you would do the same today. Be with all those who wander this world in search of a place to call home. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. S. Bach

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Rejoice and be glad - The Holy One is here!

People: God comes to enlighten our lives and brighten our world!

L: Rejoice and be glad - The Gracious One is here!

P: Christ comes to raise-up all who are struggling and searching!

L: Rejoice and be glad - The Strengthening One is here!

P: The Holy Spirit comes to fill us with power and compassion!

L: Rejoice and be glad - Divine Love has touched the earth!

All: Let us gladly welcome the Holy One who blesses us in so many ways!

*** Hymn of Praise**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear
[verse 1]

#131

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of Peace and Promise, as we approach another Christmas, fill us with your compassion and joy. Inspire us by 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, so that we might renew our commitment to serve you, by serving others. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy

As the Candles are lighted, we 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.

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 peace 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 show compassion to others and fill the world with joy!

The Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-3

Pew Bible, p. 691

The New Testament

Luke 1:46-55

Pew Bible, p. 57

The Continuing Testament.... *Welcome to Our World*

2015 BUCC Cantata
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

Unto Us Is Born a Son

Dandrieu

*** 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 Holy Realm. 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 image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' with guitar chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E written above the notes. The second staff has the lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' with guitar chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A written below the notes.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sing Aloud on This Day!

14th cent. German, arr. Holst

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, 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 6, 2015 – Adults: 86 Kids: 12 Total: 98

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.

WE WELCOME 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 are also available from ushers for children.

A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held today, following worship. We will be presenting the preliminary 2016 budget and approving the 2016 slate of officers.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT/COMMUNION SERVICE will be at 10:00 p.m. We will commemorate Jesus' birth with carols and scripture, and celebrate Christ's timeless presence through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our service will conclude with our traditional circle of candlelight, as we each receive and spread the Light of Christ's love and peace!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - Next Sunday at 2:00 pm, our youth, adults and children of all ages 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 members who regularly cannot join us for worship. We will return to the church around 4:00 to warm ourselves with some hot chocolate and other goodies.

GIVING TREE There are still a few tags left on our giving Tree in the Narthex. The items needed will help the students at Thomas Jefferson School continue on to success. Please consider taking a tag - Thank You.

MITTEN TREE: Old Man Winter isn't far away. Inner city children will need mittens, hats, scarves, and socks. We have a tree sitting in the Narthex of BUCC that needs some decorations. Also if you have some yarn suitable for mittens consider knitting mittens or contribute the yarn.

LOOKING FOR AWESOME STOCKING STUFFERS? The Bicentennial Ministry has the perfect gift! We're offering LED magnetic, waterproof flashlights for just \$5 each (yep, just in time for Christmas!) Funds raised will help defray costs of our yearlong bicentennial celebration. Flashlights will be available for sale beginning TODAY, following worship, in Fellowship Hall. See George Snider! Thank you for supporting the Bicentennial Ministry!

ANOTHER GIFT OPPORTUNITY! Community of St. Bridget members Samir and Marlene are sponsoring The Olivewood Project, one of the activities of the Interfaith Council for Peace in the Middle East. This faith-based organization uses education, peaceful activism and dialogue to help raise awareness. They believe that all three Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - affirm humanity's sanctity, equality, and value.

The Olivewood Project helps Christians stay in Bethlehem by providing employment to 45 families carving olive wood. These works of art will be sold at Coffee Hour next Sunday, December 20th. They have large and small Nativity sets, candlesticks, ornaments, and other religious figures. These items are all reasonably priced and are "fair trade", which means the artisans get the amount of the sales.

THE BUCC LIBRARY invites you to take a look at the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany books near the copies of Still Speaking Magazine on the top shelf of the red book cart. Books for adults on other subjects are on the middle shelf, and children's Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany books are on the lowest shelf.

200 YEARS OF SERVING. We are still accepting recipes for the bicentennial cookbook to be published in time for Mother's Day. The cut-off date for submission of your recipes will be Sunday, January 24, 2016 but the earlier we receive them helps to minimize that panicky last minute rush. You can submit them handwritten or typed but please make sure your name is with your recipe. Just put them in the recipe box in the commons or email them to culinarybee@gmail.com. Any comments about the recipes you write (and we encourage and welcome them) will be included in the cookbook. Thank you.

BLANKET DRIVE - Maya MacKeigan-Moore, former BUCC member and daughter of Pastor John King, sends us the following: The Richfield UCC youth group would love your help with a blanket and pillow drive for a nursing home for people in need. **(continued next page)**

Many patients at University Manor Health Care Center in Cleveland do not have a pillow, and the single blanket that is given to them is very thin and uncomfortable. (Monetary donations also accepted!)

Maya came up with the idea for this project while with her father on a visit to that facility. If you would like to help, please leave a blanket, pillow, or an envelope stuffed with cash under our Mitten Tree - marked "Blanket Project". Thanks for your help!

The Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 61:1-3

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.

The New Testament - Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Holy One, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor upon this lowly servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. Divine mercy is upon those who revere the Holy One from generation to generation. God has shown strength with God's arm; has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of Divine mercy, according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and to their descendants forever." device

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 13	10:00 am	Worship Service/Cantata
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting Coffee Hour
Wed, Dec. 16	6:00 am	Early Birds
Thurs, Dec. 17	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal
Sunday, Dec. 20	10:00 am	Worship Service/Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	2:00 pm	Caroling

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 13, 2015

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Fred Pesek, Sam Koch
Beth Rehling, Dan Stewart
Acolyte: Grace Hunt
Peace Candle: Lily Hunt
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Narthex Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Jon Cook
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell
Clean-Up: Kathy & David Pastor
Snacks: Marilyn Wrights, Gina Cook
Snow Herder: Dave Bernard

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 20, 2015

Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Tina Ortiz, Jim Duffy
David & Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Drew Demko
Sound: Doug Melfo
Comns Grtr: Wes Novak
Narthex Grtr: George Snider
Flowers: POINSETTIAS
Nursery: Kara Rees
Counters: Marge Culver, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Dorie Gabor
Robin Coyer-Westerberg
Clean-Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Marge Culver, Annie Demko
Snow Herder: Matt Wolbert

2015 POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Anonymous

In Memory of the Lost but Not Forgotten.

Julie Bernard &
Linda Kriynovich

In Memory of Tony, Julie & Lori Gorenc.

Joanne Cook

*In Memory of my husband Skip, Sister Jeanne, and Parents,
Bob & Willie Deeter.*

Jeanne Cowden

In Memory of James W. Cowden.

Jane & Cliff
Cribbs

In Memory of Loved Ones.

Marjorie Culver

*In Memory of my Husband Richard, and Brothers-in-Law Carton Culver
and Ron Lang.*

Kim Dessofffy &
Tim Wallis

In Memory of Lillain Meszaivos.

Jim & Dottie
Farwell

In Memory and Honor of our Parents.

Dorothy Faust

In Memory of Mother and Father; Clinton & Caroline Tallant.

Anna Mary Fisher

In Memory of Loved Ones.

Joy Garapic

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

Diane Gressley

In Memory of my Parents, and Pauline Farina.

Phyllis Hassler

In Memory of Family & Friends who are no longer with us.

Darlene, Michelle,
Emily & Celia Kelly-
Namatka

*In Celebration of Darlene Kelly & Michele Namitka, and in Recognition
of the Kelly-Namatka Family.*

Mark Lehman

In Memory of my Father Ralph Lehman (2/15/15).

Dassie Matsuoka &
Family

In Memory of James Matsuoka.

Bettina Ortiz

*In Honor of my Children, Rachel Kubic & Dan King,
My Grandchildren, Stephanie, Steven, Lyndsey & Bradly Hough, Grace,
Juli, and Jenna Kubic.*

*In Memory of Betty Joseph, and Timothy Ortiz from Bettina Ortiz, Loving
Daughter & Sister.*

Fred & Connie

Pesek

In Honor of Family getting together for the Holidays.

Eric Rahnenfuehner

In Honor of Jan & Marjorie Rahnenfuehner.

Pat Rehm &

Carol Miller

In Honor of Robert Miller.

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.

Kathy Smith

For the Joy of my Grandchildren.

Cheryl Spieth

In Memory of Tim Spieth and Arlene Griffith.

Kim Stefanini &

Michele Marcus

*In Memory of Nick & Dorothy Magold, Casmier & Sarah Mysliwczyk,
Walt & Ceil Jakubowski, and Nana & Pappa Stefanini.*

Nancy Stella

*In Memory of Lucy Rose Stella, who passed away this year, Frank A. Stella,
Frank S. Stella, John & Virginia Truex – Grandparents, Fathers, Husbands,
and Parents.*

The Szabo Family

In Loving Memory of Vic Szabo.

The Kids of

Thomas Jefferson

School

In Honor of Falcon Friends Wonder Volunteers.

Bill & Ann Toneff

In Memory of Elizabeth & C.C. Thorton, and Vera & Milan Toneff.

The Wilson

Family

In Memory of Norinne & John Brownlow, and Randy Trefzger.

Jill Zedan

In Memory of Bobby, Joan, Jack, Preston, and Terry.