

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***

May we hear
the music of
the spheres
in our
daily lives.
May we
listen with
our hearts
and sing
praise
through the
gifts we have
been given.
May our
lives reflect
the glory of
God. Amen



Sunday December 27, 2015 • 10:00 AM

First Sunday After Christmas

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 27, 2015 – First Sunday After Christmas

Meditation Music

God, sometimes our hopes for peace, for which we pray each Christmas, are dashed again and again. Yet today we sing songs that give us hope in every verse. We pray for the whole family of Earth, that we all may know our true connection to each other and to all creation. Amen

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Angels' Carol

Rutter

"Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?"
John Rutter (b. 1945)

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship -**

L: Let us celebrate Christmas in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, who came to us from the heart of God's own being.

P: Like Jesus, let us seek more to give than to receive, more to love than to be loved.

L: We celebrate God's entering into our lives in human form and bringing light to all the world.

P: This is good news of great joy, which has come to all people!

L: Let us present ourselves before Christ our Savior, and bring our gifts of praise!

P: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O Come, All You Faithful

#135

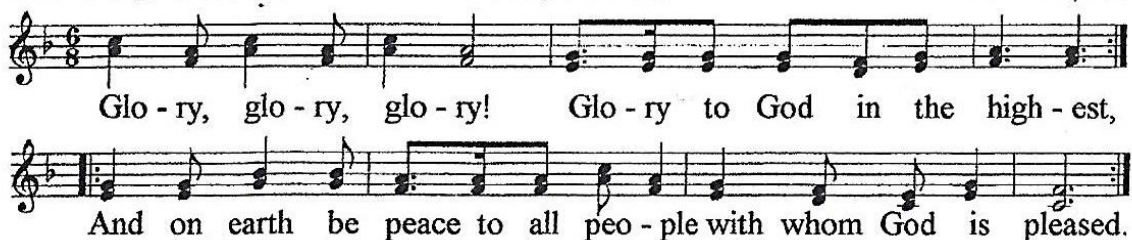
***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

God of wonder, we gather in joy and thanksgiving to praise you for the gracious gift of Jesus, your child, our friend and Savior. In our joy, help us to remember that the world into which he was born was a world not unlike our own, a world of pain and struggle for many people. Help us in this season, and throughout our lives, to bring the presence of your Love that came to a manger in Bethlehem long ago, into our world once more. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Isaiah 42:1-4

The New Testament

Luke 2:21-35

The Continuing Testament The True Gift of Christmas

Alberto Cutié

Hymn of Reflection

What Child Is This

#148

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering I.

O Holy Night

Adam

[Don Seager, bass]

Musical Offering II.

The First Nowell

English carol

[Briana Brown, alto]

Musical Offering III.

The Rebel Jesus

Browne

[Anne Melfo, soprano; Dave Debick, baritone; Steve Ostrow, violin]

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

Rocking

Czech carol

*** 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 God, may the light of your love shine in and through us today. Bless
these gifts, that they might be used to further Your work in this community and in
our world. Bless us as we seek to give of ourselves in serving You, by serving
others. We ask in the name of the One who dwelt among us to show us the fulness
of your love, Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

*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

Il Est Né

French carol

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, Kathleen Stewart, 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 20, 2015 – Adults: 97 Kids: 21 Total: 118

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.

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.

PASTOR DAVE WILL BE ON VACATION from Dec. 25th to Jan. 4th. **PASTOR DAVID DURKIT** has graciously offered to be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. He can be reached at First UCC in Eastlake [440-951-0291] or by cell phone [216-832-3453].

MITTEN TREE: 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 is you some yarn suitable for mittens consider knitting mittens or contribute the yarn.

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. 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

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Gospel Reading Luke 2:21-35

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Continuing Testament - The True Gift of Christmas Alberto Cutié

Christmas is the yearly celebration of the birth of Jesus, but it is truly a gift that we must experience each day. I share with you and all my readers the following thoughts--based on a meditation by an anonymous author--which enlighten us during the busy holiday season and sum up the true meaning of what we hope to celebrate as people of faith. Christmas is a present, not a past. Christmas should not be just a historical date to remember, but a gift to be lived. When you decide to love those around you, that day is Christmas. When you take the first step to be at peace with a loved one, that day is Christmas. When you meet someone who asks for help and you assist them with all your heart, that day is Christmas. When you take time to talk to someone who is lonely and sad, that day is Christmas. When you understand that resentment can be transformed by forgiveness, that day is Christmas. When you let go of something to give to someone who needs it more than you, that day is Christmas. When you realize that love, service and authentic concern are the best gifts, that day is Christmas. When you decide to live with joy and hope rather than surrender to fear and sadness, that day is Christmas. Christmas is something that was born in the heart of God--who, motivated by pure love, sent Jesus to save us. Yet, Christmas comes alive today when we allow its true significance to be born in our hearts. May the beautiful holiday lights, parties, shopping and the exhausting rush of these days not distract us from the true meaning of what Christmas really is--and can be. Merry Christmas to us all!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 27	10:00 am	Worship Service/Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Thurs, Dec. 31	1:00 pm	NO Bible Study
Friday, Jan. 1		Happy New Year! Office Closed
Sunday, Jan. 3	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 27, 2015

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Caroline Chandler, Lindsey Maier
Matt Wolbert, Kate Klonowski
Acolyte: Drew Demko
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Ann Kelley
No Narthex Greeter this week
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: David Pastor, Jan Renovetz
Servers: Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Tina Ortiz, Tia Began
Snow Herder: Billy Harris

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 3, 2016

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Joanne Cook, Fred Pesek
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comms Grtr: Chad Sproul
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: **See Weekly Bulletin**
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jon Thompson
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Marge Culver
Clean Up: Jan RenovetzPat Bailey
Snacks: Beth Rehling, Kate Klonowski
Snow Herder: Chad Sproul

United Church of Christ Founding:

The United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 in Cleveland, Ohio, with the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches.

Each of those two components resulted from earlier unions of church traditions. The Congregational Churches trace their roots to the English Reformation and to Puritan New England, while the Christian Church had its beginnings on the American frontier. The Evangelical Synod of North America was a 19th century German-American church prominent in the Mississippi Valley. The Reformed Church in the United States, of German and Swiss heritage, was initially made up of churches in Pennsylvania and surrounding colonies in the early 1700s.

Prominent Founders: Robert Browne, William Brewster, John Cotton, Anne Hutchinson, Cotton Mather, Jonathan Edwards.

Geography:

The United Church of Christ takes in nearly 5,600 member churches in 44 states in the U.S., with the highest concentrations on the east coast and in the Midwest.

United Church of Christ Governing Body:

The General Synod is the representative body of the UCC, composed of delegates chosen by the Conferences. The organization is divided into Associations and Conferences, determined by geographic areas. According to the United Church of Christ constitution, each local church is autonomous and none of its functions or government may be modified by the General Synod, Associations or Conferences.

Notable United Church of Christ Ministers and Members:

Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, Barack Obama, Calvin Coolidge, Hubert Humphrey, Andrew Young, Howard Dean, Cotton Mather, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Brown, Thomas Edison, Thornton Wilder, Theodore Dreiser, Walt Disney, William Holden, John Howard.