

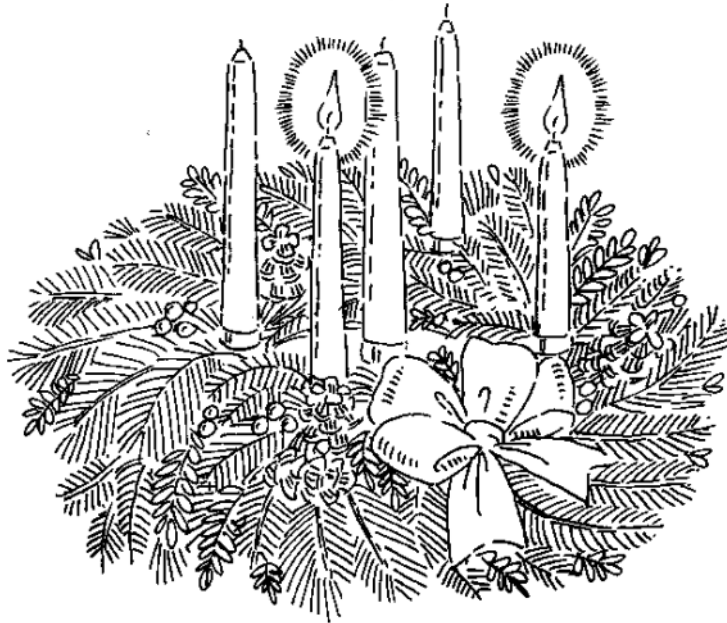
# BRECKSVILLE

## 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***

*Second Sunday of Advent*



Gracious Holy One, we turn to you for the peace that we cannot find by ourselves. We want to live in your light as your beloved children. Open our ears to the prophets of Scripture and to the prophets in our midst. Lead our feet in the ways of peace, that we may walk more closely with you. Through the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

**Sunday December 6, 2015 • 10:00 AM**

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

## December 6, 2015 – Second Sunday of Advent

### **Meditation Music**

Compassionate Holy One, there has never been a time in history when we have not needed your tender mercy and strong guidance. We certainly need them now! Inspire and help us as we seek new and creative ways to prepare for your Presence in our world and in our lives. Amen.

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

*\* Please Stand as you are able.*

### **Prelude**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

14th century Swedish tune

"Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear."

Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847)

### **Bearing the Light of Peace**

### **Bearing the Life of Christ**

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

Leader: We come to you, O Holy One, with our hopes and our joys.

**People: We gather at your Table, seeking your strength and your peace.**

L: We lay our lives before you, in anticipation of your being with us.

**All: We thank you for your gracious presence, now and always!**

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

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

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

**Gracious Holy One, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you and your Compassionate Realm. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force, making it difficult for us to wait for the power that comes through your patient love. We admit that while claiming to desire your Reign of Peace, we take part in the ways of hatred and injustice, war and violence. Forgive us, renew us, lead us, and show us how to prepare our hearts and our world for your gracious coming among us. Amen.**

#### **\* The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and will never change: God has loved us, loves us now, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**\* Passing the Peace**

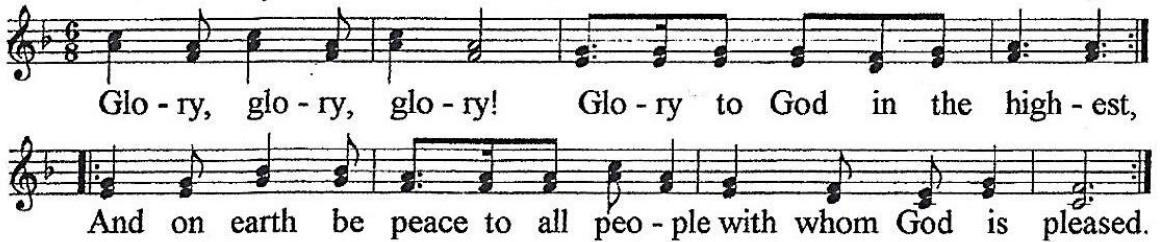
L: As God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

**\* The Song of Praise**

**Glory to God**

Pablo Sosa, 1988



**Reception of New Members**

Friends in Christ, each of us are received into the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We find strength and support to live-out our baptism, by connecting with a local faith community. Today, we rejoice that our faith journeys have brought us to this time and place. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit has led us to Brecksville United Church of Christ; and that on this day we can welcome others who desire to officially claim and celebrate this Family of Faith as their own.

**Questions to our new members - Pastor**

I ask you:

Do you desire to affirm your faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ?

Do you promise to show your dedication to Christ, by showing love and compassion to others?

Do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the Church, by celebrating Christ's presence here and furthering Christ's mission in the world?

**\*Affirming our BUCC Covenant of Membership [in unison]**

**Believing in God as revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior, we dedicate ourselves and our church to the service of God's Realm. Depending as did our fathers and mothers upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us in truth, we covenant with God and with one another to worship, work, and serve together, that we may express through our church and our lives, the love and faith of Jesus Christ.**

### **\*Words of Welcome**

Let us, the members and friends of Brecksville United Church of Christ, express our welcome to these new members and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**P: We welcome you with joy into the life of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and work of the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in Divine knowledge and love, and be faithful witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

### **\*Prayer [Unison]**

L: Let us pray.

**All: Gracious Holy One, we are grateful that you have called us to faith and have welcomed us into the Church, the Body of Christ. We thank you for your people gathered in this place, and the opportunities we have to build-up one another in love. May your compassion - and our own - continue to flow within this faith community, and throughout the world! Amen.**

### **Lighting the Advent Candle**

The Candle of Peace

As the Second Advent Candle is lighted, we will sing the second verse of the hymn, *One Candle Is Lit*

Come quickly, Shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.  
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease,  
One candle is lit for the Reign of God's Peace.

L: Our Second Advent Candle is the Candle of Peace.

**P: May the Peace of Christ come to our hearts today!**

L: Our world is clouded by violence, war and strife;

**P: May the light of Christ's peace shine upon our world!**

L: Jesus says, "*You* are the light of the world!"

**P: May the light of Christ shine in us and through us, that we might be living, radiant signs of Divine Peace!**

### **Time with Young Worshipers**

**The Old Testament**

Isaiah 58:6-11

Pew Bible, page 688

**The New Testament**

John 1:1-5; 9-14

Pew Bible, page 91

**Continuing Testament**

by Betsey Wilson

in *BUCC Advent Devotional*

<b>Musical Offering</b>	Find Us Ready	Booth
<b>Sermon</b>	<i>We'll Leave The Light on for You!</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
<b>Hymn of Reflection</b>	This Little Light of Mine	#524

## ***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**

<b>Offertory</b>	Choral	Schumann
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**\* 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, in this holy 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. Amen.**

## ***Holy Communion***

**Communion Hymn**

Be Known to us in Breaking Bread

#342

**The Thanksgiving**

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts!

**P: Our hearts rejoice in our Creator's Presence!**

L: Let us give thanks for the Spirit's abundant love!

**P: It is good to raise our thanks and praise!**

L: Gracious Holy One, in Jesus Christ you faithfully shine your Light and Love upon the world, to rescue and redeem all people; therefore we give you thanks, and we praise your Holy Name, saying,

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Divine Source of love and grace, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O Holy One Most High!**

**Words of Institution**

**Prayer of Consecration**

**The Invitation**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Communion Music**

Élévation

Guilmant

**Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]**

**Divine Source of Life and Love, with joy we have received this Sacrament of Bread and Cup, remembering the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unite us with your faithful people throughout the world, that together we may continue Christ's ministry of love and service. 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

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

Joy Garapic, 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, November 29, 2015 – Adults: 91 Kids: 16 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.

**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.

**WE WELCOME INTO BUCC MEMBERSHIP TODAY** Kathy and Leroy Ford, Michele Marcus and Kim Stefanini, Evelyn and Don Seager, and Bill Simpson. May God continue to bless our newest members and all of us celebrating with them today!

**TODAY'S FLOWERS** are given by Jan & Dan Renovetz in Celebration of our Wedding Anniversary.

**FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE**, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

**A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on next Sunday, December 13, following worship. We will be presenting the preliminary 2016 budget and approving the 2016 slate of officers.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** This year's Christmas cantata is scheduled for **NEXT SUNDAY**, December 13 at our regular morning worship. "Welcome to Our World," created by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling, features a number of memorable contemporary Christmas songs, along with a lively medley of traditional carols. The cantata will be presented by BUCC's adult and seasonal choirs with an instrumental ensemble and narrators. We hope you can join us next week for this holiday tradition.

**HERE WE COME A'CAROLING!** On Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm, our youth, children, and adults will meet at the church to go caroling to our homebound members. This is a great opportunity to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols while bringing a special greeting to those members 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.

**MITTEN TREE:** It may be a bit early but 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 is you some yarn suitable for mittens consider knitting mittens or contribute the yarn.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** Reminder: If you have a new address, please let the office know of the change, also if you have recently given up your land line and are using only a cell phone, please make us aware of your cell phone number.

**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!

**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](mailto:culinarybee@gmail.com). Any comments about the recipes you write (and we encourage and welcome them) will be included in the cookbook. Thank you.

**THAT PESKY PARKING PROBLEM!** For the past few Sundays, our parking lot has been completely full. What a great problem to have! In an effort to be hospitable to our visitors and help those arriving late, we ask that those of you who can readily do so, park in the school lot next door. This is just another way in which we can signal our desire to be accessible and welcoming to all, particularly as the winter weather sets-in!

**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!

**MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE** the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: [www.brecksvilleucc.org](http://www.brecksvilleucc.org). It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

**NAME TAGS** are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and new members to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

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

**THE BLESSINGS JAR** is for your use to drop in a note and/or money in response to a special blessing you have received during the week. We would like to recognize your blessing in the Pillar if you wish.

**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.

## ***The Readings***

### **The Old Testament - Isaiah 58:6-11**

*Thus says the Holy One, Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every chain? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to withhold your help from your own sisters and brothers?*

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Holy One shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Holy One will answer; you shall cry for help, and your deliverer will say, "Here I am!"

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Holy One will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

### **The New Testament** - John1:1-5; 9-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

### **Continuing Testament** - by Betsey Wilson -in *BUCC Advent Devotional* [edited]

It boils down to this... Mary and Joseph were displaced. They were far from home, without the comfort of family or friends. No one clapped Joseph on the back or handed out cigars. No experienced mother figure laid a cool hand on Mary's forehead or knowingly cradled the fussing baby. What was such a joyous time in my own life almost twenty-one years ago, would look drastically different under the light of such decidedly desperate circumstances.

Today, many mothers are still far from home, giving birth unaided, anxiously trying to feed and sooth distraught children; frightened, filthy, fatigued. The Syrian refugee crisis is a haunting reminder that the world is in just as much upheaval as

it was at the time of Jesus’ humble birth. And yet. Bleak and dreary as it was, beauty bloomed in that desperate time and place.

Out of God’s all-encompassing love, God reached out and made manifest a plan that was conceived before the world was born. We celebrate the fulfillment of that plan, in the birth of an innocent, far from home. Let’s remember the displaced today - both in our own country, and across the world - that our thoughts and actions may honor that child born outside the inn.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday, Dec. 6</b>	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	Percussion Practice
		For Cantata
		<b>*Hunger Meal – Bethany UCC*</b>
<b>Wed, Dec. 9</b>	6:00 am	Early Birds
	7:00 pm	Council
<b>Thurs, Dec. 10</b>	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal

7:00 pm    Seasonal Choir  
8:00 pm    Choir

**Sat. Dec. 12**            10:00 am    Cantata Rehearsal  
                              12:00 pm    Cantata at Chippewa Place

**Sunday, Nov. 13**        10:00 am    Worship Service/Cantata  
  Congregational Meeting  
                              11:00 am    Coffee Hour  
                              11:30 am    Percussion Practice

**PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 6, 2015**

Lay Reader:        Diane Gressley  
Head Usher:        Caroline Chandler  
Ushers:             Ed Lusk, Wes Novak  
                              Chad & Bridget Sproul  
Acolyte:             Ben Davis  
Peace Candle:        Olivia Klonowski  
Sound:                Max Roha  
Comms Grtr:        David Pastor  
Narthex Grtr:        Lenore Harris  
Flowers:             Dot Bailey  
Nursery:             Gina Cook  
Counters:            Nancy Stella, Jon Thompson  
Servers:              Dottie Farwell, Julie Bernard  
Clean Up:            Peg & Jim Duffy  
Snacks:                Vicki Szabo, Gina Cook  
Snow Herder:        Jim Farwell

**PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE**  
**DECEMBER 13, 2015**

<b>Lay Reader:</b>	<b>David Ritchey</b>
<b>Head Usher:</b>	<b>Evie Novak</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Dorie Gabor, Sam Koch Beth Rehling, Dan Stewart</b>
<b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>Grace Hunt</b>
<b>Peace Candle:</b>	<b>Lily Hunt</b>
<b>Sound:</b>	<b>David Pastor</b>
<b>Comms Grtr:</b>	<b>Marge Culver</b>
<b>Narthex Grtr:</b>	<b>Linda Kriynovich</b>
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>POINSETTIAS</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<b>Jon Cook</b>
<b>Counters:</b>	<b>Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy</b>
<b>Servers:</b>	<b>Sue Stenzel, Dottie Farwell</b>
<b>Clean-Up:</b>	<b>Kathy &amp; David Pastor</b>
<b>Snacks:</b>	<b>Marilyn Wrights, Marla Corrado</b>
<b>Snow Herder:</b>	<b>Dave Bernard</b>

# 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 – \*TODAY\* SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**

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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 \_\_\_\_\_**