



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***

Holy One, you
urge us to wake
up! Help us to
be present
during this
time of waiting.
Remind us to
give thanks
for simple,
everyday things
that we often
take for
granted. Travel
with us on
this inward
journey of
attentiveness,
so that our
hearts may
know your
peace; and your
peace will flow
through our
words and
actions. Amen

Sunday November 27, 2016 • 10:00 AM

First 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.

Summer Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:00 - 12:00

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoh@sbcglobal.net – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

NOVEMBER 27, 2016 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Meditation Music

Merciful Holy One, lead us out of pessimism into hope. May we have the courage to face the shadow side of our own souls and confront the ways we may be part of the problem. Fill us with your Spirit that we may walk in your ways and be a light in the darkness. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Sleepers, Wake, a Voice is Calling

setting Mendelssohn

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Advent is a season of expectation and celebration;

People: It is a time of anticipation and joy!

L: As we await the birth of Christ and wait for the coming of a New Era,

P: We also celebrate Christ's presence with us here and now!

L: Together, we gladly proclaim the joyous Good News:

P: Christ has come, Christ is here, and Christ shall come again!

L: Christ brings new life and light to all people!

All: Therefore, let us all proclaim God's goodness, and let the whole earth sing-forth God's praise!

*** Hymn of Praise**

We Hail You God's Anointed

#104

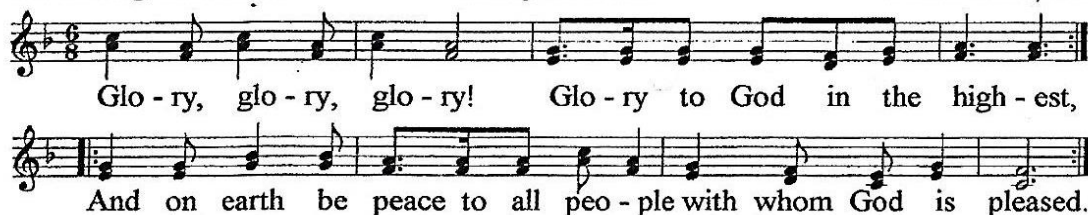
***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Eternal Holy One, in all our restless activities and all our attempts to control and secure our lives, help us to recognize our need for you. Come to us in Christ Jesus and show us the way to truly meaningful life. Empower us by your Holy Spirit, that we might work together to bring renewed hope and light to those places and people which are hurting. Enlighten us, so that we may be a beacon of love and peace throughout the world. 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: Gracious Holy One, as this light shines before us,

P: May 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!

Time with Young Worshipers

The Old Testament

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible, page 631

The New Testament

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible, page 27

Continuing Testament from *The Element of Surprise*

by Mary Hinkle Shore

Musical Offering

Emmanuel

Besig

[Assisted by Youth Percussion Group]

Sermon

You Do What You Can....

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

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.**

Choral Response

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

The Invitation

Offertory Kyrie Eielson setting McGregor
Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

***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' name. 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 Holy Realm. Bless these
offerings, and bless each of us, that we might be faithful witnesses of Christ's
Good News! 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:

Bill Simpson, Jim Pay, Dorie Gabor, William Zmich, The Family Bill Harris, Ann Toneff, 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, November 20, 2016 – Adult: 62 Kids: 10 Total: 72

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.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING There will be a Congregational Meeting right after Worship Service next Sunday, December 4. Please plan to join us

MEMORIAL SERVICE - There will be a Memorial Service for Bill Harris on Saturday December 3, at 11:00 am. There will be a luncheon immediately following. Please keep the Harris Family in your thoughts and prayers.

HERE WE COME A'CAROLING! On Sunday, December 11th 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!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA – On Sunday December 11 at our regular morning service, BUCC's choir, supported by an instrumental ensemble and narrators, will present *Gift of Heaven*. The piece features stirring contemporary songs and several traditional carols. Please plan to join us on the 11th to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition!

PILLAR ERROR – there will be **NO** Fall Clean up on 12/3 – and **NO Facilities Meetings** for the Month of December. Please cross off calendar in Pillar.

RE-SCHEDULING THE SCHEDULER Betty Kaul is taking over the job of scheduling worship participants. That means you will be contacting her with the Sundays for which you are not available or if you wish to serve on a particular Sunday. As usual the Pillar deadline is the 15th of the previous month. It would help Betty and Jeannette if you can get your schedule to her a few days prior. If you find that you are scheduled for a date that you cannot make, the policy is that you should trade with another person on the schedule and then notify the office of this change. Betty Kaul's phone number is 440-526-1244.

OFFICE EMAIL - We are having trouble with the Office email. There have been several emails that have not come through to us. Please note that if we received your email, we will reply with a short message that we received it. If you do not get a reply, we probably didn't get it. We hope to work these bugs out soon!

JUST THE SPOKEN WORDS are amplified by our sound system into the sanctuary during our worship service. The musical offerings do not normally need amplification. However the complete worship service, including the anthems, hymns, etc., is fed to our audio-CD recorder (CDs are available in the church office for borrowing) and to the narthex speakers (for the benefit of anyone who must leave the sanctuary because of a restless child or for any other reason).

Our sound operators continuously select and adjust the output from one or more of the six or seven microphones normally in use during a typical worship service to provide what they hope is optimum, seamless sound in the sanctuary as well as in the narthex and for the CD recorder. If you should use one of the portable microphones during the service, please do not turn it off but return it to its original location so that it is not eliminated from its next planned use.

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 the ***Weekly Bulletin, Monthly Pillar, and Online Calendar – BUCC Website.***

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.

Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the house of the Holy One shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Holy One, to the house of the God of Jacob; who may teach us the Holy way, that we may walk in the paths of righteousness."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Holy One from Jerusalem. God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Holy One!

The New Testament - Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus says, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Divine Source. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Continuing Testament - from *The Element of Surprise* - by Mary Hinkle Shore [Edited]

It has always struck me as unfortunate that the primary metaphor of Christ's return that sticks in most of our minds is the metaphor of a thief in the night. Why is the coming of the Son of Man likened to something that fills us with dread? Is there not some kind of good surprise we could imagine? In Luke 12, Jesus tells his hearers to be like servants waiting up for their master's return from a party. The good surprise there is that the returning master will cook for his servants and serve them.

The return of Christ is in fact good news! Upon our Christ's return, the petitions of the prayer he taught us will be finally, definitively answered: God's kingdom *will* have come, and God's will *will* be done on earth as it is in heaven. That is what we are looking forward to - the time when "The meek shall inherit the earth."

In the Gospels, we hear quite a lot about Jesus as "God with us" - present with us in tough times and for the long haul. One of the benefits that the ongoing presence of Christ offers the Church is the chance to live in the end time *ahead* of time. Maybe the surprise, when Christ returns, will be that he was here all along. Maybe the surprise will be that, ahead of time itself, Christ has been calling, gathering, enlightening and sanctifying the meek and all the rest of those who bear Christ's name.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 27	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Nov. 28	10:00 am	Leadership Dev.
Wed., Nov. 30	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder Dulcimer
Thurs., Dec. 1	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Saturday, Dec. 3	11:00 am	Bill Harris Memorial Service
		Luncheon following Service
Sunday, Dec. 4	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Congregational Mtg
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

NOV. 27, 2016

Lay Reader:	Ed Lusk
Head Usher:	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Fred Pesek Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound:	Mike Westerberg
Comns Grtr:	Sue Stenzel
Narthex Grtr:	Max Roha
Flowers:	Bettina Ortiz
Nursery:	Kathy Pastor
Counters:	Jan Renovetz, David Pastor
Servers:	Caroline Chandler, Carole Snider
Clean Up:	Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks:	Diane Gressley, Jon Thompson

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DEC. 4, 2016

Lay Reader:	Diane Gressley
Head Usher	Bridget Sproul
Ushers:	Dan Stewart, Betsey Wilson Vicki Szabo, Jim Duffy
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Candle:	Lily Hunt
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Carole Snider
Narthex Grtr:	Evie Novak
Flowers:	Carole Snider
Nursery:	Valerie Tyler
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Jim Duffy
Servers:	Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Clean Up:	Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks:	Gina Cook, Heidi Spangler
Snow Herder:	VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

**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 4



I Enclose \$12.00_____ 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 _____