

BRECKSVILLE

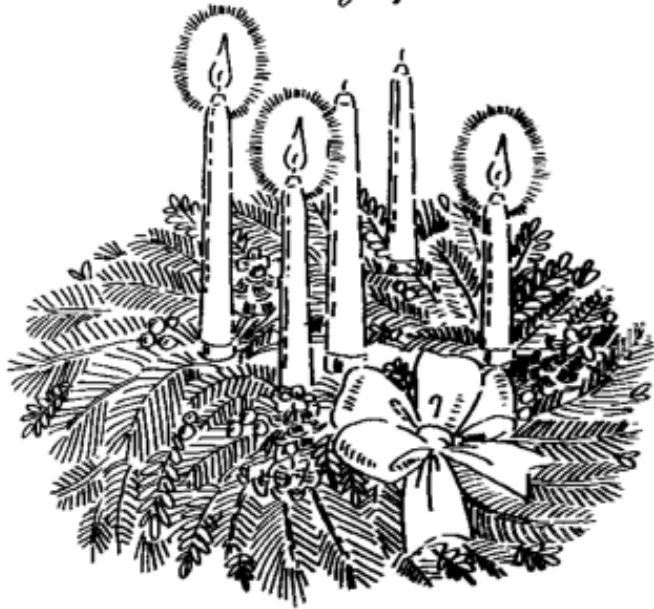
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

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

Divine Source
of Joy, we
praise you
for your
faithfulness in
ages past; we
ask you to
guide us and
lead us this
day; and we
look forward in
hope for a
future when you
transform the
tears of all
creation into
shouts of
celebration and
joy! Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent



Sunday December 17, 2017 • 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, 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

December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

Meditation Music

Holy Spirit of Hope, Peace, and Joy - fill our hearts and guide our lives today, Inspire us to share your gifts and blessings with one another - especially the wonderful Gift of your Love, which we see and experience fully in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

People, Look East

French traditional carol

"People, look East, and sing today:
Christ, the Guest, is on the way."
Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The heavens declare the Holy One's glory,

People: Let the earth rejoice, let the hills and forest sing for joy!

L: Glory to God in the highest,

P: And peace to all people on earth!

L: Today, may the Sacred Story of Christ's coming stir-up our souls,

P: To refresh and renew our lives and faith!

L: Today, may the Love of the Christ Child shine within us,

All: To be treasured, and nurtured, and spread throughout the earth!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#154

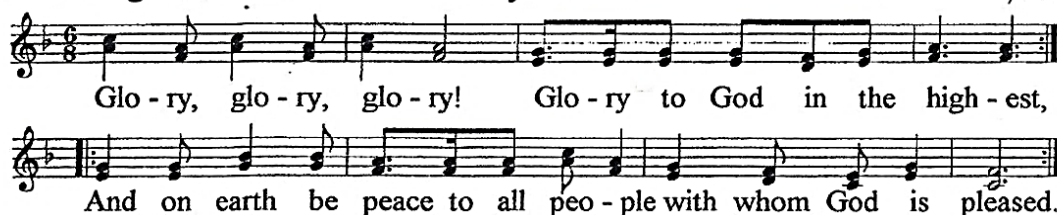
***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Holy Source of Light and Life, your Still-Speaking Voice comes to us in many different ways and places, sometimes when we least expect it. Today, may we hear the good news of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, through the voices of the children among us. And may we all know the joy of seeing your loving promise come to life and grow among us each day. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Joy

The Stewart Family

[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.

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!

The Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Pew Bible, page 690

The New Testament

Luke 1:26-38

Pew Bible, page 56

The Continuing Testament

- *God is Still Speaking...* Through our children and youth!

The Christmas Pageant

The Missing Jesus

Songs:

Faith, Faith Faith

(Traditional Gospel song)

The Heart of Christmas

by Matthew West

The Church at Prayer

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

The Prayer of Jesus

*[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

Noél Ecossais (Scotch Carol)

Guilmant

*** 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]**

**We thank you, Holy Source of Love, for the gift of this Holy Season. We are grateful
for the generosity stirred-up within us by Christ's coming into this world. May
these gifts represent a renewed spirit of compassion and sharing among us, and
may your loving purpose be accomplished through these gifts and through our
lives. These things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate
and whose name we praise! Amen.**

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#129

*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

The Voice of God Goes Out

Watson

"The Lord has said: 'Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world, my pledge made flesh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light':
with power, with justice, he will walk his way."
Luke Connaughton (1917-1979)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Justin Brownlow, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Bill Simpson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Doug Lightbody, Mary Dagostino, 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 December 10, 2017 – Adults: 96 Kids: 18 Total: 114

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.

NEXT SUNDAY'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 pm. In the morning we, like Mary, will "ponder in our hearts" the significance of Christ's Birth. Then, that night, we will commemorate that birth with Scriptures and carols, and celebrate Christ's timeless presence through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Our evening service will conclude with our traditional Circle of Candlelight, as we each receive and spread the Light of Christ's love!

NOTE THE CHANGE IN OUR OFFERTORY WORDS! Today, we are using words for our Offertory Hymn that capture the Advent/Christmas Season, this expression of our gratitude and our giving comes from Bill Toneff. Our thanks to him, and to all of you who help enhance our worship experience!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TODAY! 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 Christmas 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!

THANK YOU - Many thanks to our choir, instrumentalists, and narrators for their wonderful presentation of *Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts* last weekend. And how about those **incredible** Christmas edibles following the cantata? Thank you, Sue and Cliff Stenzel, for everything you do for our BUCC family and guests!

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING will be received at the 10 PM service on December 24th. The offering helps retired and low-income clergy and lay workers of the UCC. The funds go directly to those in need. Especially important are health care premium supplements and cost of prescription medications.

STILL LOOKING FOR GIFTS IDEAS? Here's a suggestion. There will be tables in Pilgrim Hall and the Upper Commons after church with BUCC Cookbooks that were produced for our bicentennial. The price is \$10 per book and the delicious recipes are from BUCC members and friends.

THERE ARE FOUR ORNAMENTS LEFT ON the giving tree for the Prentiss Autism Center. This center serves about 97 students with a diagnosis of autism as well as significant cognitive delays and severe behavior. Over half of the students fall below the federal poverty level. The giving tree's ornaments identify needed toys and clothes. ►

BUCC members and friends are asked to respond by picking an ornament, getting the suggested gift, wrapping it, and tagging it with the ornament. In past years, families have been very grateful for support for children who are struggling. If there are questions, please contact Darlene Kelly at 440-856-3897 or at Darlene @pepcleve.org.

DID YOU NOTICE that the magic mitten tree looks comparatively bare? That is because it only took about two weeks to fill up with hats and mittens, etc., thanks to the magic. The magic is the expression of concern for others by BUCC members and friends. Thanks go to all the “magicians” who faithfully keep filling up the tree.

Incidentally, the hats and mittens were delivered to Brookside Hunger Center for distribution to families with children when they come to receive food items. The center was very glad to see hats and mittens for the children.

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***.

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.

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.

DID YOU MISS last Sunday's service or do you just want to have a chance to rehear Pastor Dave's sermon. The Sunday services are recorded in their entirety on audio CDs each week. You can borrow a CD in the church office and listen to it at your convenience at home or in your car. Several recent weeks' recordings are always available. Check them out and check them out.

BUCC HAS THE LATEST, up-to-date version of the Williams personal sound system. It may just be your answer if you are concerned (1) that the quality of sound deteriorates between the speakers and your pew in the sanctuary, or (2) that your hearing is getting poorer but not yet bad enough to buy hearing aids, or (3) that you have hearing aids and you want to hear even better or (4) that you are bothered by the route 82 traffic noises or any noise generated by your pew mates during worship. ►

Receivers are available in the narthex for you to borrow which pick up ALL PARTS of the worship service - sermon, readings, choir and organ music, etc. Just plug in one of our head phones, your favorite Walkman head phones or any other unit with a 3.5mm plug and you are ready for a new hearing experience. Don't know if you want to do this? Then try it out; borrow one of the church's head phones and "test drive" a Williams receiver during a worship service.

And if you already have digital hearing aids, an even better experience awaits you. Simply have your audiologist activate the teleloop option of you hearing aids, borrow a receiver with a teleloop plugged in and experience sound quality you never would have expected. The sound remains electronic all the way from the speaker's mic to your ear drum.

One of our ushers and members of the Spiritual Life Ministry are ready to help you get started. Check with them before the service next Sunday. Your questions are gladly answered.

ALTAR FLOWERS – (2018 list coming soon!) are a good way to celebrate an event or person or to remember a loved one. Our flower chart in the narthex has many open slots awaiting your name. Please select the date you wish to reserve now. Please fill out the dedication sheet from the pocket and drop it into the collection plate or leave it in the office.

Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Holy One has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Holy One will arise upon you, whose glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the Holy Ones praise.

The New Testament - Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The woman's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Holy One is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his realm there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Holy One; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 17	10:00 am	Worship Service/Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	2:00 pm	Caroling
Thursday, December 21	1:00 pm	Bible Study
Friday, December 22		*Office Closed*
Sunday, December 24	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	10:00 pm	Candlelight Service

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 17, 2017

Lay Reader:	Ben Tomlinson
Head Usher:	Sue Stenzel
Ushers:	Bob & Caroline Chandler Darlene Kelly, Drew Wilson
Acolyte:	Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle:	Olivia Klonowski
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Max Roha
Flowers:	POINSETTIAS
Nursery:	Marla Corrado
Counters:	Marge Culver, Kate Klonowski
Servers:	Kathy & Leroy Ford
Clean-Up:	Jill Zedan, Sue Stenzel
Snacks:	Gina Cook, Anne Melfo
Snow Herder:	Jim Farwell

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2017

Lay Reader:	David Ritchey
Head Usher	Bob Chandler
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Sam Koch Jess Barnes, Cliff Cribbs
Acolyte:	Carli Began
Peace Candle:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	POINSETTIAS
Nursery:	Courtni Began
Counters:	Jon Thompson, Jim Duffy
Servers:	Michele Namitka, Darlene Kelly
Clean Up:	David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks:	Betty Kaul, Marilyn Wrights
Snow Herder:	Jim Demko

DECEMBER 24, 2017 – 10:00 PM

Lay Reader:	Carole Snider
Head Usher:	Jan Renovetz
Ushers:	Diane Gressley, Donn Whyte Kate Klonowski, George Snider
Commons:	Dave Bernard
Sound:	Doug Fawcett