



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 Light and Guidance, as we begin our annual pilgrimage to Bethlehem, may we once again discover the Christ Child revealed in the hope, peace, joy, and love of this season. And may we graciously share these gifts and blessing with all those we encounter along the way. Amen.

First Sunday of Advent



Sunday December 3, 2017 • 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, 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 3, 2017 – First Sunday of Advent

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, keep us from being distracted by the lights and glitter of the crass commercialism that surrounds us in these coming weeks. Help us to stay alert and focused as we await the revelation of your love, which is fully given to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Blessed Be the God of Israel
*[Recorder/Dulcimer/Guitar Ensemble;
Youth Percussion Group]*

Hopson

"The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace."
Michael Perry (1942-1996)

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We come to you, O Holy One, with our concerns 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 coming among us.

All: We thank you, our Divine Hope, for your gracious presence, now and always!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

#122

*** Prayer of Confession**

Leader: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of the Divine Realm. Let us respond to that call, that we may be ready for the Holy One who comes to us today.

All: Holy Source of grace, you send signs of your love to us, in and through the people around us, but we often shut those people out of our lives. We turn away from your love, sometimes when we need it the most. We deny your hope within us, and remain isolated and afraid. Forgive our foolish ways, visit us with your saving grace, and open our hearts to receive you anew.

L: Arise! Shine! God is our Light, our Hope, and our Salvation!

All: Through God's grace, we are forgiven and renewed, so that we might walk together in the light of Divine love!

*** Passing the Peace**

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

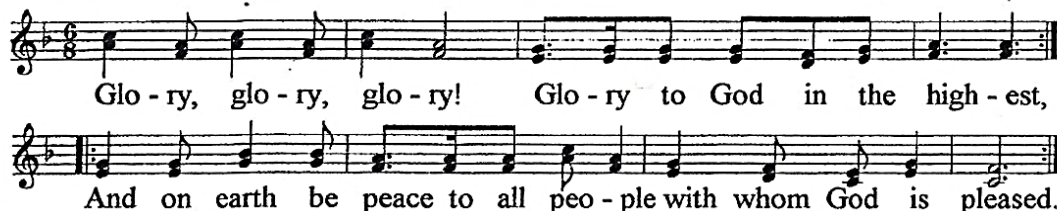
The Peace of Christ be with you all!

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

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**

Leader: 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 Wreath - The Coyer-Westerberg Family

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.

Leader: Bless to our use, O Holy One, this shining light.

People: Let 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 40:1-5	Pew Bible, page 667
The New Testament	Mark 1:1-8	Pew Bible, page 34
The Continuing Testament	<i>Repent and Believe in The Gospel!</i> by Susan Thistlethwaite	

Anthem	Show Us Your Kindness	Canedo
---------------	-----------------------	--------

Sermon	<i>The Non-profit Prophet</i>	Pastor Dave Shackle
---------------	-------------------------------	---------------------

Hymn of Reflection	Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates	#117
---------------------------	------------------------------------	------

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

Redeemer of the Nations, Come

Plainsong, Mode I

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care;
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts;
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. 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. 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 come 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

Selections from *Mikrokosmos*, Bk 4
Bartók

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

O How Shall I Receive You
[verse 1]

#102

*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

Awake, All Who Sleep

Bastiaans

"Awake, all who sleep, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall become your new dawning.
God's Son and your King - not in judgment and dread -
as Savior wakes you to his morning."
Petro Parson, 1857; trans. Stanley M. Wiersma, 1982

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 November 26, 2017 – Adults: 66 Kids: 8 Total: 74

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 Carol Miller and Pat Rehm, and Bill and Sherrill Witt. May God continue to bless our newest members and all of us celebrating with them today!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Marla Corrado, in Loving Memory of her late Father, William Zmich.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY, immediately following worship. We will vote to approve our slate of Officers and Ministry members, as well as a preliminary budget for 2018. Please plan to stay!

LET'S GO CAROLING! On Sunday, December 17th 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!

LET THEM EAT CAKE....PLEASE! This Tuesday, December 5th, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, a case involving the Colorado bakery that violated a non-discrimination law by refusing to sell a cake to a same-sex couple celebrating their marriage. The question before the Supreme Court is whether religious beliefs give business owners a right to discriminate against LGBTQ people *and others!* While we may firmly agree that freedom of religion is one of our most fundamental rights, it gives no one the right to discriminate against others. Please pray that the Court will take a stand for the equal rights of all citizens.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - NEXT SUNDAY, December 10 at our regular 10 AM service, the adult choir will present, "Emmanuel, Hope of Our Hearts," this year's Christmas musical. Created by Nancy Gordon, the dynamic score features pieces by a number of composers and arrangers, including Dennis and Nan Allen, Tom Fettke, Stan Pethel, Gary Rhodes, Robert Brown, John Chisum, George Searcy, David Winkler, Steven Curtis Chapman, Michael W. Smith, and Nancy Gordon.

The presentation will be accompanied by flutes, trumpets, violin, assorted percussion, and narrators. Plan on joining us next Sunday to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

BOOK DISCUSSION Jodi Picoult's **SMALL GREAT THINGS** is the book for discussion Dec. 4 @ 1:00 in the church parlor. Carole Snider will be leading the group in reacting to this well documented novel about racism and white privilege. All are welcome to participate.

MITTEN TREE – The mitten tree is in place in the narthex. The weather is turning colder, and there are people who need warm hats, mittens, and scarves. Please respond to their need by placing these items on the mitten tree. This tree is magic, because it fills up two or three times over the cold months. The items are taken to a hunger center, and people can get these items when they pick up food items.

WOMEN UNITED There will be no set meetings for November and December, however, on Tuesday December 5th at **7:30 PM** Christ The Redeemer Lutheran Church will be presenting their Annual Advent Tea. Several of our women have attended this service in the last few years and found it truly meaningful and welcoming. If you would like to attend this year please meet in the lobby of CRLC and we will sit together. After an eventful service Tea and TRAYS of cookies are served in the Community Room. We highly recommend this opportunity to begin the Advent Season! Please Come!

Readings

The Old Testament - Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says the Holy One. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Holy One's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The New Testament - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to John, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Continuing Testament - from *Repent and Believe in The Gospel!* - by Susan Thistlethwaite [edited]

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was arrested and ultimately executed by the Nazis for his opposition to Hitler, contrasted what he called “cheap grace” with the costly grace of the Gospel. The Christianity Bonhoeffer denounced is the Christianity that must be denounced today. It is a Christianity that literally enables hate: hate for people of color, for immigrants, for those of other religions, for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender human beings, for women and girls, for the poor and the most vulnerable among us.

And why do these so-called Christians do this? Not out of obedience to the teachings of Jesus, because Jesus taught the exact opposite of their hate-mongering. No, they do it for power, for political gain. Jesus asks, “What does it profit you to gain the whole world and lose your soul?” [Mark 8:36]

The most important thing we can do as Christians is announce the good news of the Gospel. The good news is the radical inclusivity of God, for “God so loved the world!” Not just some in the world who are white, or rich, or male or heterosexual. God loved the whole world of animals and plants and the entire ecosystem that is a victim of this same voraciousness and nearly mindless drive for domination. The good news, and it is very good news, is an invitation to turn away from greed and turn toward love of neighbor. To turn away from hate, and turn towards love.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 3	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Congregational Meeting/Coffee Hour
	3:00 pm	Jingle Jam – Pilgrim Hall
	5:15 pm	Cantata Percussion Practice
Monday, December 4	1:00 pm	Book Discussion
	7:00 pm	Facilities
Wednesday, December 6	6:00 am	Early Birds
Thursday, December 7	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30pm	Joyful Noise – Pageant Music
	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Cantata Practice
Friday, December 8		*Office Closed*
Saturday, December 9	10:00 – 11:30 pm	Cantata Practice
	12:00 pm	Cantata at Chippewa Place
Sunday, December 10	10:00 am	Worship Service/Cantata
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	12:00 1:00 pm	Pageant Rehearsal

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 3, 2017

Lay Reader: Diane Gressley
Head Usher Jon Thompson
Ushers: Jill Zedan, Matt Wolbert
Tim & Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer Westerberg
Peace Candle: Amy Coyer Westerberg
Sound: Doug Fawcett
Comns Grtr: Marge Culver
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Jonathon Cook
Counters: Jan Renovetz, Nancy Stella
Servers: Betty Kaul, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks: Jim Pay, Susan Snyder
Snow Herder: Jim Farwell

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
DECEMBER 10, 2017

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Betty Kaul, Jim Pay
Dave & Julie Bernard
Acolyte: Jillian Davis
Peace Candle: Ben Davis
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Kathy Smith
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: David Pastor, Dave Bernard
Servers: Julie Bernard, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Jim & Peg Duffy
Snacks: Receptions
Snow Herder: Dan Stewart

**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 10



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 _____



Find Your Groove!
www.creativedrumming.com

Presents



Jingle Jam



A Family Holiday
Music Celebration



*Discover the joy of rhythm in singing
dancing and drumming together!*

Sunday, December 3rd
3:00pm - 4:00pm

FREE EVENT! INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED!

Brecksville United Church of Christ
23 Public Square, Brecksville, OH 44141
Located at the intersection of Rt. 82 and Rt. 21.

Advent

Hope · Love · Joy · Peace

