

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 our families,
whether
created by
chance or
fashioned
by choice,
be places
of joy and
compassion,
love and
forgiveness.
We ask this
in the name
of Jesus.
Amen



Sunday December 31, 2017 • 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 31, 2017 – First Sunday After Christmas

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One, we celebrate Jesus coming to be among us. You sent him to us, not as a ruler or a politician or a tycoon, but as a baby in a family. Thank you for reminding us who Jesus is and who we should be.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Wexford Carol

Irish traditional

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: We celebrate Christmas and celebrate families.

People: We are all members of families, of all sorts of families.

L: We celebrate God's entering our lives as a child, longed for and loved.

P: We await the day when all children will be longed for and loved.

L: God's overflowing love results in human love.

P: We praise the Holy One for giving us one another.

L: We pray all this in the name of Jesus.

P: Amen!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#129

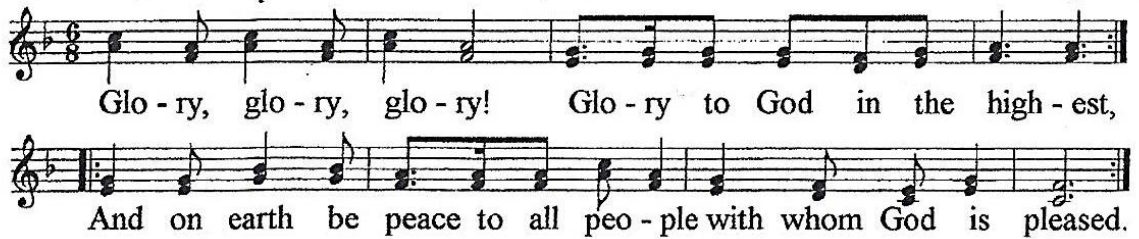
***Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Generous Giver, we gather in joy and thanksgiving to praise you for the gracious gift of Jesus, your child, our brother. May this holy season of Christmas keep us filled with joy and wonder and love, not only through the Christmas season, but through the coming year. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

The New Testament

Colossians 3:12-21

The Continuing Testament

"Children" from *The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran

Hymn of Reflection

Once in Royal David's City

#145

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?

French traditional

[Dave Debick, baritone]

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Holst

*** 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]**

Good and Gracious God, we thank you for Jesus and Mary and Joseph. They model for us a way to be family that grows joy and compassion, love and forgiveness. May we, no matter the configuration of our families, learn to do the same. We ask in the name of the One who dwelt among us. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Go Tell It on the Mountain

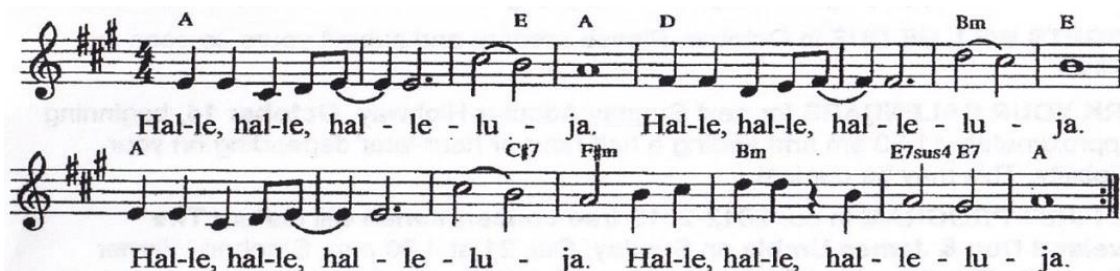
#154

***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

Wake from Your Sleep

Schutte

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 24, 2015 – AM - Adults: 73 Kids: 9 Total: 82
PM - Adults: 38 Kids: 3 Total: 41

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.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given Anonymously to children everywhere.

MUSIC REHEARSALS THIS WEEK - The Joyful Noise Choir (K-5th grade) will meet for practice this Thursday January 4 from 5:30-6:15. The Adult Choir will resume rehearsing this Thursday from 7:30-9:00. High school students are welcome. More information about our choirs and instrumental ensembles can be found in the January Pillar.

PASTOR DAVE WILL BE ON VACATION from Dec. 25th to Jan. 2nd. Ann Klonowski has graciously offered to be available in the event of a pastoral emergency. She can be reached by cell phone at 216-544-4717.

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.

WOMEN UNITED will not be meeting in January of February. Watch for further information in the Announcements.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS 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.

The Readings

Old Testament Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority is confirmed over her children.
Those who honor their fathers atone for sins;
and riches are stored up for those who revere their mothers.
Those who honor their parents will live a long life;
they obey God who bring comfort to their parents.
My children, take care of your parents when they are old;
do not grieve them as long as they live.
Even if their minds fail, be considerate of them;
do not revile them in the fullness of your strength.
For kindness to parents will not be forgotten,
it serves as a sin offering—it will take lasting root.

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Savior, giving thanks to God through Christ.

You who are in committed relationships, be submissive to each other. This is your duty in Christ Jesus. Partners joined by God, love each other. Avoid any bitterness between you. Children, obey those responsible for you, for this is what pleases God the most. To those responsible for children, do not nag them, lest they lose heart.

Continuing Testament: “Children”

Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you. And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies, but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and he bends you with his might that his arrows may go swift and far. Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; for even as he loves the arrow that flies, so he loves also the bow that is stable.

The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 31

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Coffee Hour

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 4

5:30 pm Joyful Noise

7:30 pm Choir

Sunday, Jan. 7

10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Coffee Hour

**4:00 pm Hunger Meal
Bethany UCC**

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 31, 2017

Lay Reader:	Tia Began
Head Usher	Anne Melfo
Ushers:	Bridget & Chad Sproul Dan & Ian Stewart
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Candle:	Lily Hunt
Sound:	David Pastor
Comns Grtr:	Jill Zedan
Flowers:	Julie Bernard
Nursery:	Jess Barnes
Counters:	Kathy Pastor, Jon Thompson
Servers:	Sue & Cliff Stenzel
Clean Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks:	Marla Corrado, Bridget Sproul

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 7, 2018

Lay Reader:	Jon Thompson
Head Usher	Jill Zedan
Ushers:	Beth Rehling, Jim Pay David Ritchey, Sue Stenzel
Acolyte:	Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Candle:	Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound:	Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr:	Kathy Pastor
Flowers:	Bettina Ortiz
Nursery:	Valerie Tyler
Counters:	Nancy Stella, Donn Whyte
Servers:	Betty Kaul, Marge Culver
Clean Up:	Lynne Struck, Jill Zedan
Snacks:	Julie Bernard, Marla Corrado
Snow Herder:	Matt Wolbert

Wishing You
a New Year filled
with new Hope ,
new Joy &
new Beginnings.

