



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 Source of power and love, at his baptism you called Jesus your beloved Child and sealed him with your Spirit. May we, born of water and of the Spirit, know ourselves to be beloved by you as well. Help us to rejoice in the New Life to which you call us all! Amen.



Sunday January 7, 2018 • 10:00 AM

Baptism of Christ

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.

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

January 7, 2018 – Baptism of Christ

Meditation Music

Divine Source of Strength and Inspiration, Compassion and Grace: help us to see a new beginning in the life and story of Jesus Christ. Open us to the unexpected and life-giving ways that you provide for us each day, so that we may discover and live-out a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ's path. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan

Buxtehude

"In accordance with God's will,
Jesus received baptism from Saint John,
to fulfill his work and ministry."
Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Creative Holy One, with the dawning of each new day you reveal yourself to us again.

People: Show us how to recognize you:

L: In the falling snow and in the warmth of the sun,

P: In our neighbors, friends, and families,

L: In the poor, the unemployed, the victims of war and violence,

P: In the sorrows and joys of Life; in the fears and hopes of all people.

L: Help us respond to you at all times and in all places,

P: In the close and familiar, and in the foreign and new.

L: Open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our hearts to welcome you!

All: Shine your light upon us and show us the way!

***Hymn of Praise**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Gracious Holy One, sometimes we respond to you as we would to a sudden, bright light: surprise, a little uncertain, yet drawn to see where it leads. The light of your love draws us to Jesus Christ and the way of life we find in him. Yet we sometimes turn from your light, afraid of the unknown, uncertain of where you might lead us, anxious about what we might see in ourselves. And in turning away, we no longer see your light. Forgive us, Holy One, and give us the courage to come again to the light of your love, and to faithfully follow you.

Leader: The love of the Holy One shines upon us always, beckons us always, forgives us always. As God's forgiven people, we can see things in a new light, and new life is ours once more.

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

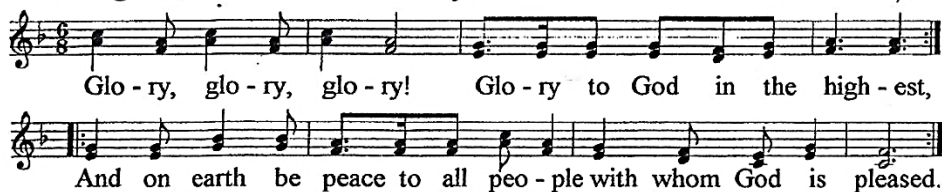
L: As people of the Light, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



The Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-10; 31

Pew Bible, page 1

The New Testament

Mark 1:4-11

Pew Bible, page 34

The Continuing Testament

from *The Father's Voice*

by Janet Hunt

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

Down to the River to Pray

Trad., arr. Curry

Sermon

Follow My Lead

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

#170

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

My God, Accept My Heart

Scottish Psalter, 1635

"My God, accept my heart this day,
And make it always Thine,
That I from Thee no more may stray,
No more from Thee decline."
Matthew Bridges, 1848

*** Offertory Hymn**

**Winter has come, it's taken hold.
The days are short, the nights are cold.
The poor need food and light and heat.
We send our gifts, their needs to meet. Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

**Creative Source of all things: through your goodness you have blessed us with
these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to
the care and redemption of all that you have made. May our giving help advance
your Reign of Compassion and Peace. This we pray this in the name and Spirit of
Jesus Christ, who freely gave himself for us all. Amen**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table
[verse 1]

#332

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: It is truly good and right to give thanks to you, Divine Source of Light and Love. You call us from the East and the West, the North and the South, to gather at the new dawn that Christ brings to our world. And so with your people everywhere, we praise you with joy, saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy, Divine Source of love and majesty, 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

By the Still Waters

Beach

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Divine Source of all blessings, we give you thanks for Jesus, the Light of the World - the Light that no darkness can overcome. We thank you that you have called us to walk in your light and have nourished us for our journey with this Bread and Cup. Fill us with your Spirit and guide us in the compassionate steps of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

#573

***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

Roll, Jordan, Roll

African-American spiritual

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 31, 2017 – Adults: 48 Kids: 11 Total: 59

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.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Bettina Ortiz "In honor of my granddaughter, Stephanie Hough on her 30th Birthday."

TO ALL MY BUCC FAMILY AND FRIENDS - Thank you so much for the many warm wishes, goodies, gifts, cards [and gift-cards] that I received from you throughout the holidays. I am truly touched by the kindness, support and love that is extended to me in this Season, and throughout the entire year. Pastor Dave

TODAY A HUNGER MEAL WILL BE SERVED at Bethany UCC. The sign-up board is in the narthex for BUVCC members and friends to indicate their preference in participating in either the early or the late shift.

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

MUSIC START-UPS THIS WEEK:

Recorder/dulcimer/guitar ensemble meets again this week on Wednesday Jan. 10 from 4:30-5:00. The group plays preludes for services ~ once a month. Dave Debick is happy to provide free beginners lessons for any of these easy instruments.

Private piano lessons resume on Wed. and Thurs. Jan. 10 and 11. If you'd like to take lessons, contact Dave. All ages are welcome.

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.

Amy Marcy Cheney Beach (September 5, 1867 – December 27, 1944) was an American [composer](#) and [pianist](#). She was the first successful American female composer of large-scale [art music](#). Her "Gaelic" Symphony, premiered by the [Boston Symphony Orchestra](#) in 1896, was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman. She was one of the first American composers to succeed without the benefit of European training, and one of the most respected and acclaimed American composers of her era. As a pianist, she was acclaimed for concerts she gave featuring her own music in the United States and in Germany.

Readings

The Old Testament - Genesis 1:1-13; 31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Breath of God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day....

....God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was all very good!

The New Testament - Mark 1:4-11

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 him, 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."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens open-up and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from heaven, saying "You are my Child, my Beloved; with you I am well pleased!"

The Continuing Testament - from *The Father's Voice* - by Janet Hunt [edited]

We don't know what compels Jesus to go to John to be baptized. Perhaps it was simply that John's message of repentance rang true in terms of the new life to which it pointed. And John, of course, is pointing to the coming of Jesus; so it's only fitting that they meet-up. Either way, there is a certain humility exhibited here as Jesus submits to John's baptism. Whatever it was that brought Jesus to the Jordan River, we do know this: the boundary between heaven and earth was rent wide-open that day. We hear about the Spirit moving, and the Voice addressing Jesus: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Of course, we are not told what it was that was so "pleasing" about Jesus. Perhaps it was the humility he shows that day.

Or maybe it was the Spirit knowing the truth that - even then - Jesus was bending himself to God's will. Mark's Gospel doesn't really offer us anything more, except this profound truth: that from that point forward, the boundary between heaven and earth *continues* to be torn wide-open - in Jesus' preaching and teaching, his healing and helping, his compassion and calling.

It could be that the sound of God's voice in his ear, telling him who he was, was enough to get him moving in the right direction. Perhaps it can be the same for all of us today.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 7	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	4:00 pm	Hunger Meal at Bethany UCC
Monday, January 8	1:00 pm	Book Discussion
	7:00 pm	Facilities – Library
	7:00 pm	Spiritual Life
Wednesday, January 10	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
	7:00 pm	Council
Thursday, January 11	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Friday, January 12		*Office Closed*
Sunday, January 14	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS 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

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 14, 2018

Lay Reader:	Matt Wolbert
Head Usher:	Jon Thompson
Ushers:	Kim & Tim Wallis, George & Carole Snider
Acolyte:	Jillian Davis
Peace Candle:	Ben Davis
Sound:	Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr:	Betty Kaul
Flowers:	Carole Snider
Nursery:	Erin Tomlinson
Counters	Jim Duffy, David Pastor
Servers:	Sue Stenzel, Julie Bernard
Clean-Up:	Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Snacks:	Marilyn Wrights, Diane Gressley
Snow Herder:	Chad Sproul