



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*

*"Peace cannot
be achieved
through
violence; it
can only be
attained
through
understanding
." Ralph Waldo
Emerson*

THE SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:
PEACE



Sunday December 8, 2019 • 10:00 AM
Second Sunday in Advent

Pastor

• Allan Lane

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, or pangender
You Are Welcome Here!*

*If you are fully abled, 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!***



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, please speak to our pastor.

Large Print Bulletins are available. Simply ask an usher. Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use. Pillows for back support are also available, if needed

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 8, 2019 – Second Sunday in Advent

Meditation Music

“There really can be no peace without justice. There can be no justice without truth. And there can be no truth, unless someone rises up to tell you the truth.” Louis Farrakhan

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Improvisation on "Winchester New" for Advent

Rowley

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: *P*eople awake! The Prince of Peace is coming!

People: *E*very heart make room for the birth of our Savior!

Leader: *A*manger, a stall, a baby: A Redeemer for God's people!

People: *C*ome to the stable and find the peace of Christ!

Leader: *E*veryone everywhere, celebrate the coming of God's peace!

*** Hymn of Praise**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
[verses 6 & 7]

#116

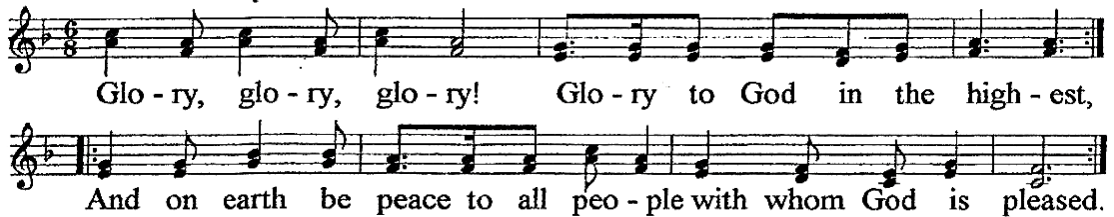
*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

O Prince of Peace, O Lord of Life, O Lamb of God, we raise our voices to praise and worship you. You give the peace that transcends all understanding! You transform our inner selves until the flesh and the spirit are at war no more. We bow in awesome wonder at your great faithfulness to us in all our warring madness, and we ask that you will provide a cure for the hatred that so infects our race. Make us true followers of you, the one who turned the other cheek and prayed, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” Come, O Prince of Peace, and bring peace to your people in worship. Amen

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Lighting the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Peace

"As the second Advent Candle is lighted, we will sing the second verse of the hymn, *One Candle is Lit*

Come quickly, Shalom teach us how to prepare
For a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the Reign of God's Peace

Leader: With the Candle of Hope still burning brightly, let us add to it the Candle of Peace.

People: In a world full of bitterness, anger, and resentment, worry, and strife, may the peace of God spread from heart to heart and nation to nation.

L: Christ showed the way by refusing to seek revenge on those who opposed him and crucified him.

P: To end the cycle of violence, someone had to be hurt and not strike back. Christ did that and calls on us to follow him.

L: St. Augustine said in his *Confessions*: "Our hearts are restless, O God, until they find their rest in You, for You have made us Yourself"

P: We are indeed made for you, O God, and for each other. May the Peace of Christ make that a reality as we prepare for the birth of Christ among us. Amen

Jeremiah 8:4-12 Pew Bible Page, 708

Jeremiah says there is no peace without justice

St. Augustine on Peace in his Letter to Darius, AD 429:

Matthew 5:1-12 Pew Bible Page, 4

Jesus blesses righteous peacemakers

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem Prepare the Way, O Zion Swedish folk tune, arr. Lau
[With Youth Percussion Group]

Sermon *The Path To Peace* Pastor Allan Lane

Hymn of Reflection O How Shall I Receive You #102

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 Strengthen All the Weary Hands McMane, harm. Brandon

"Look, your God is coming.
God comes, comes to save you.
Be strong, fear not, for your God is near."
Based on Isaiah 35:4

*** 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 give these gifts in peace, O God; may they pass on your peace to those who receive them. Amen

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

We Hail You God's Anointed

#104

***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

Advent Trumpet Tune on "Stuttgart"

Cattaneo

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Elizabeth Gadus, Joy Garapic, Nancy Stella, Betty Kaul, Don Seager, The Corpora Family, Anna Mary Fisher, Bill Toneff, Richard Sacher, brother of Jan Renovetz, Jan Wardlaw, Suzanne Patrick (Niece of Kathy Smith), Pat Bailey, Jill Black, Stan McCain, Phyllis Molnar, Lenore Harris, Dottie Faust, "Edna House", Jon Thompson, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, Mary Dagostino, 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 1, 2019 – Adults: 61 Kids: 13 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 childcare 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 for Blessings on our 61 years together – and still counting! Dan & Jan Renovetz.

AS THE SECOND CANDLE of Advent is lit this morning, let us remember those who need pension supplementation, health benefits supplementation, emergency grants for medical expenses or home damage repair following natural disasters. Let us remember these “veterans of the cross”, these UCC clergy and lay church employees. The Christmas offering will be received on Sunday, December 22nd.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - On Sunday December 22 at 10 AM, BUCC's choir and seasonal choir will present *Emmanuel--God With Us!* arranged and composed by Lloyd Larson. This lessons and carols program is a wonderful collection of both traditional and contemporary Christmas music. It will be accompanied by flute, French horn, trumpets, violin, cello, percussion, and narrators. We hope you can join us on the 22nd to enjoy this BUCC holiday tradition. Bring a friend!

THE BUCC LIBRARY invites you to take a look at the grown-ups' and teens' books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany displayed on the top shelf of the red book cart. Children's books for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are displayed on the lowest shelf of the red book cart.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE LOOKING FOR A NICE APARTMENT?

BUCC has a very nice 2-bedroom unit available for rent in our Arlington Street property. The unit has an eat-in-kitchen, dining room, and living room on the first floor, and two bedrooms and bath on the second floor. The unit comes complete with a stove, fridge, washer and dryer, garage parking and cozy front porch. The unit will be available December 1st, and rents for \$850 per month. Please pass the word around! Thank you, Doug Fawcett.

THE MITTEN TREE has sprouted in the narthex again, just waiting to be “decorated” with hats, mittens, scarves, etc. to be delivered to those who will need them in the ►

cold weather. They are delivered to hunger centers when the donated food items are delivered to hunger centers.

FOOD PANTRY/DECEMBER- Small Canned Hams, Canned Sweet & White Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Pie Crust Mix, Canned Pumpkin, etc.

PFLAG - Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. This is a local and national organization that has been in the Cleveland Area for 35 years. One of the services provided is a Monthly Support Group Meeting. The group is led by a licensed Psychologist and Social Workers. The purpose is to provide support and education to family and friends of people coming out Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual or Questioning. The group is free and meets at Trinity Cathedral on the second Tuesday of the month 645p-830p. For more information, call Mark Lehman, LISW at 330.631.4415

Readings

Jeremiah 8: 4-12

You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD:
When people fall, do they not get up again?
If they go astray, do they not turn back?
Why then has this people turned away
in perpetual backsliding?
They have held fast to deceit,
they have refused to return.
I have given heed and listened,
but they do not speak honestly;
no one repents of wickedness,
saying, "What have I done!"
All of them turn to their own course,
like a horse plunging headlong into battle.
Even the stork in the heavens
knows its times;
and the turtledove, swallow, and crane
observe the time of their coming;
but my people do not know
the ordinance of the LORD.
How can you say, "We are wise,
and the law of the LORD is with us,"
when, in fact, the false pen of the scribes
has made it into a lie? ►

The wise shall be put to shame,
they shall be dismayed and taken;
since they have rejected the word of the LORD,
what wisdom is in them?
Therefore I will give their wives to others
and their fields to conquerors,
because from the least to the greatest
everyone is greedy for unjust gain;
from prophet to priest
everyone deals falsely.
They have treated the wound of my people carelessly,
saying, "Peace, peace,"
when there is no peace.
They acted shamefully, they committed abomination;
yet they were not at all ashamed,
they did not know how to blush.
Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;
at the time when I punish them, they shall be overthrown,
says the LORD.

St. Augustine on Peace in his Letter to Darius, AD 429:

"Those warriors, by whose labors and dangers enemies previously unsubdued are conquered, and peace obtained for the State, are indeed great and worthy of singular honor, not only for their consummate bravery, but also (which is the higher praise) for their eminent fidelity.

But it is a higher glory still to stay war itself with a word, than to slay men with the sword, and to procure or maintain peace by peace, not by war.

For those who fight, if they are good persons, doubtless seek for peace; nevertheless, it is through blood.

Your mission, however, is to prevent the shedding of blood. Yours, therefore, is the privilege of averting that calamity which others are under the necessity of producing."

Matthew 5: 1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ►

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Dec. 8	10:00 am	Worship Service/Annual Meeting
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Dec. 9	1:00 pm	Book Club
	7:00 pm	Facilities
Wed., Dec. 11	7:15 pm	Council
Thurs., Dec. 10	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir
Sunday, Dec. 15	10:00 am	Worship/Children's Pageant
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 8, 2019

Lay Reader: David Ritchey
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: David & Kathy Pastor,
Kim Wallis
Acolyte: Joshua Anderson
Peace Candle: Amelia Tyler
Sound: David Pastor
Comns Grtr: Valerie Tyler
Flowers: Janet Renovetz
Nursery: Courtni Began
C.E Teacher: Beth Rehling
Counters: Marge Culver, Jan
Renovetz
Servers: Linda Kriynovich, Julie
Bernard
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Beth Rehling
Clean-Up: Bob & Caroline Chandler
Snow Herder: Wes Novak

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 15 2019

Lay Reader: Kathleen Stewart
Head Usher: Kathy Smith
Ushers: Dave & Julie Bernard
Dan Stewart, Diane Gressley
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Peter Kucmins
Sound: Ben Tomlinson
Comns Grtr: Dave Bernard
Flowers: Carole Snider
Nursery: Erin Tomlinson
C.E Teacher: Marla Corrado
Counters: Kathy Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Cliff & Sue Stenzel
Snacks: Children's Program
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
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 15



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_____