

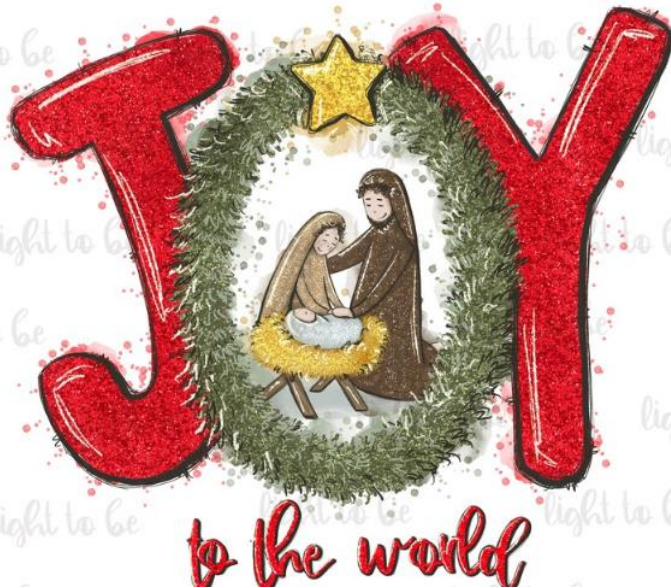


Brecksville United Church of Christ

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

*"My spirit
rejoices"*

*Luke
1:46*



Pastor
• John King

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 15th, 2024 • 10:00 AM

Director of Music
• David Debick

Financial Secretary
• Joy Garapic

Administrative Assistant
Miranda Lacefield

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming ALL of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

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 - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.
- Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9:30am - 1:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!



Sunday December 15th, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent

**Prelude Magnificat Based on a Slovenian hymn of praise to Mary,
"Dajte mi zlatih strun", arr. Debick**

English translation of text: "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor
on the lowliness of God's servant." (Luke 1:46-48)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation

*"Joy does not simply happen to us.
We have to choose joy
and keep choosing it every day."
-Henri Nouwen.*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

CALL TO PRAYER:

One: *The joy of the season is upon us.
The time is almost here.*

All: **We have come to praise the Lord!**

One: *We are here to sing praises to God, the Holy One
in whom we place our trust.*

All: **God opens our eyes and lifts us up**

One: *Let us praise God*

All: **who reigns forever.**



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: *This morning, hear anew the call to rejoice.*

All: *We should truly rejoice always. God is with us, and we are with God.*

One: *Sometimes we are troubled. We wonder, "What then should we do?"*

All: *Once again we humbly dedicate ourselves to kindness, to justice, and to fairness.*

One: *On this third Sunday of Advent, we light a candle of joy, as a visible symbol of joy announced by angels and shepherds in Bethlehem, the joy Jesus brings to the world,*

All: *Come let us be baptized with winds of the Spirit and refined by the fire of God's word.*

One: *We have lit the candles symbolizing "Hope" and "Peace." Now we light the candle symbolizing "Joy."*

One: *Let us, though many, pray in one voice.*

All: *Gracious and loving God, as we await the coming of the One whom you sent, grant that our waiting might be the active kind. Give us the courage to meet the challenge of altering our thoughts and feelings about the world around us so that our actions might also be changed. Help us to keep our priorities straight, our passions properly pointed, and our eyes fixed upon the prize of joy. Remind us that you lovingly require evidence of our repentance – kindness, justice and compassion. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The third verse of "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous love is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No one discerns God's coming, but in this world of sin,
Where yearning souls long to be whole, the dear Christ enters in.*

Song of Praise: Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates #117

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

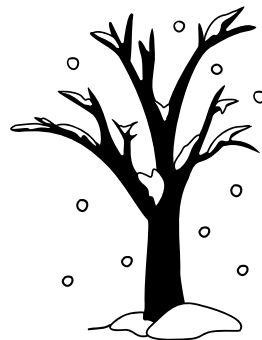
First Reading: - Philippians 4: 4-9 (NRSV)

Gospel Reading: - Luke 1: 39-56 (NRSV)

Continuing Testament: by Tia Began, BUCC Advent Devotional



Time with
Young
Worshippers



Christmas Cantata: Together for Christmas (see insert)

The Church at Prayer

Gayle & Allison Colbert, Cliff Stenzel, Sue Renovetz, Joe Blasko, Jon Thompson, Marilyn Pay, Frances Posey, Mac Hoppel, Rose Kaval, Bee Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Sheila Day, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Kathleen Stewart, Ann Klonowski, "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Prayers of the Church

Silent Meditation

OUR LORD'S PRAYER: [UNISON]

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.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

* Invitation to the Offering

* Doxology: [UNISON] Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION: [UNISON]

We present to you, O God, our gifts.
May they be used to make a difference
As we strive to build the kingdom of God
May our gifts be a reminder,
to those who receive them,
of your love.



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.

* Circle of Community (continued)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

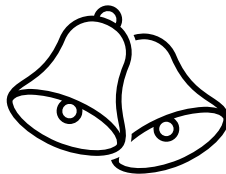
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical notation is for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), E (above B), A (above C), D (above E), Bm (above G), and E (above F#). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Chords above the staff are: A (above G), C#7 (above B), F#m (above C), Bm (above E), E7sus4 E7 (above G), and A (above F#).

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Pachelbel



Readings

First Reading Philippians 4: 4-9 (God's Word Translation)

Always be joyful in God! I'll say it again: Be joyful! Let everyone know how considerate you are. God is near. Don't worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: dedicate yourself to things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable. Then the God who gives this peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 39-56 (NRSV)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

Whose mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Who has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Who has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
Who has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
Who has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah
and to their descendants forever."
And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Continuing Testament – by Tia Began, BUCC Advent Devotional

This connection between Mary, the baby in the womb, and Elizabeth shows the sharing of joy and of hope between the women. Mary, chosen by God to carry the Christ-Child, has significance because it is a lesson still being encountered in our lives today. The uncertainty of how life and lifestyle will be changed with the beginnings of another life is daunting. There is no quick fix or clean-click to return to the previous... no matter what the outcome or original wish.

But being chosen, blessed and entrusted with carrying not only a baby, but the king of all people's is a halo that Mary had no expectation of, but accepts with humble gratitude.

Sharing the news at Zechariah's home with Elizabeth helps Mary to confirm the reality of her immaculate role in the Message of God. Elizabeth, with the remark of 'felt the baby kick' is the start of presenting the joyful news to all people.

We are indebted to Mary and the joy she carried for the world to experience.

Announcements:

Colony Cupboard - We are collecting again for the Colony Cupboard! This resource is for students in BBH schools in need of household essentials. There will be a collection bin out for the next three weeks and items will be donated after 12/22. Items in most need include: paper towels (packs of 1-4), toilet paper (packs of 1-4), individually wrapped snacks, umbrellas, laundry soap, hats, gloves, coats, household disinfecting wipes. Donations of cash or gift cards are also accepted.

Flowers- 2024 Christmas Flower Dedications

<i>Julie Bernard and Lin Kriynovach</i>	<i>In memory of Tony, Julie and Lori Gorenc</i>
<i>The Cook Family</i>	<i>In memory of Our bestest dog Cricket</i>
<i>Peg and Jim Duffy</i>	<i>In memory of dear Aunt Jill</i>
<i>Armand Eusanio and Jeff Thompson</i>	<i>In memory of Armand's parents Robert and Ann Eusanio In memory of Jeff's parents Jim and Gin Thompson In memory of Armand's niece Lee Ann Candela</i>
<i>Dorie Gabor</i>	<i>In memory of my husband Steven Gabor</i>
<i>Joy Garapic</i>	<i>In memory of William Garapic, husband, father, grandfather</i>
<i>Gordon, Tracey and Eleanor Gibb</i>	<i>In memory of Vivienne Grace Gibb In memory of Rev.H. Robert Jewell</i>
<i>Kathy Goshe</i>	<i>In memory of Kathy's mother Betty Csek</i>
<i>Claudia Griesmer</i>	<i>In memory of Michelle Nader</i>
<i>Kate Matthews and Jackie Cassara</i>	<i>In Memory of Sister Therese Anne Cox</i>
<i>Robert L Petrus</i>	<i>In memory of John W. Petrus In memory of J.R. Mc Evoy</i>
<i>Eric Rahnenfuehrer</i>	<i>In memory of Jan Rahnenfuehrer In memory of Marjorie Rahnenfuehrer</i>
<i>Sue and Cliff Stenzel</i>	<i>In memory of those we have lost, but will never forget</i>
<i>Jill Zedan</i>	<i>In honor of this congregation that will and has prevailed through hard times.</i>

Christmas Pageant- Join us next Sunday, December 22nd at 10:00 AM for our annual Christmas Pageant and a light reception following the service!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

- Tue. Dec 17 8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera
 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall)
 7:30pm- Communication & Outreach
- Wed. Dec 18 11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor)
 6:30 pm – Stewardship/ Leadership Development
- Sat. Dec 21 4:00 pm – St. Bridget (Parlor)

SHARE YOUR INSPIRATION – As a congregational church, input from you, the congregation, is essential. The Spiritual Life Ministry is inviting you to keep an eye out during your week for potential continuing testament readings, bulletin cover art, quotes, and hymns. When you find something

that speaks to you, please email it to Pastor John
buccpastor23@gmail.com)



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005
**AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS
BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME**

You'll notice scriptures for upcoming weeks listed in the Sunday bulletin – ideas that connect to those particular scriptures are especially welcome. In October, our Music Director started a once-monthly brainstorming session scheduled on the first Thursday of the month, at

6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited! At BUCC, WE ARE ONE, and we look forward to your unique input into our shared journey.



we are thankful for you

December 15th, 2024

Early Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteers Needed
Greeter:	<i>Lori Molesky</i>
Reader:	Volunteers Needed
Flowers:	Christmas Poinsettias
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Bryan Chaikin
Snacks:	Maggie McNamara Lois Lorenzo
Set Up/Serve:	Maggie McNamara
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

Our sanctuary art this week was shared by Connie Schultz.

December 22nd, 2024

Early Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Armand Eusanio
Flowers:	Christmas Poinsettias
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteer Needed



Attendance last Sunday, December 8th, 2024 – Adults: 56; Kids: 13; Online: 22; Total: 91
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Isaiah 11: 1-10 (GW)** and **Luke 1: 26-38 (NRSV)**