



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

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

*"Arise, shine, for your
light has come, and
the glory of the LORD
rises upon you."*

Isaiah 60:1



by Jan Richardson

2nd Sunday after Christmas, January 5, 2025 • 10:00 AM

Pastor
• John King

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 January 5th, 2025

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander

Niles

"When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all,
But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall."
(Lyrics by John Jacob Niles, 1933)

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Meditation



"Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the earth, in order to be carried in a woman's arms." — St Augustine



Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

CALL TO PRAYER: (Based on Ephesians 1: 3-14)

One: God's goodness is built into the foundation of Creation!

All: **God chose us in Christ from the beginning.**

One: God calls us blameless, holy, and loved.

All: **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

One: God has made an eternal promise to gather all things.

All: **God will reconcile all things on earth and heaven in the fullness of time.**

One: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!

All: **In Jesus Christ we have heard the word of Truth.**

One: In the Holy Spirit breathed on us and diverse peoples throughout the world,

All: **God's promise has been sealed. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: [UNISON]

*O God of Enlightenment,
We gather as a diverse people
We gather from the east and the west, the north and the south
We are people of diverse perspectives,
Diverse ways of understanding
Diverse ways of believing
And we are stronger because of our diversity.
May your word be a lamp to our feet,
And a light to the path we walk
Together.
Amen.*

Song of Praise: We Three Kings (see insert)

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading: - Jeremiah 31-7-14

Gospel Reading: - John 1: 1-18

Continuing Testament: By Jan Richardson



Time with
Young
Worshipers

Anthem

**With Dancing and Singing
16th century German, from Strasbourg Gesangbuch
Erin Tomlinson, flute**

1. The valleys are singing, the hills are rejoicing,
the desert is blooming, fresh fountains are springing in bold exaltation.
The song of salvation is heard in all nations, in forests, on mountains.

Refrain: With dancing and singing, your praises be bringing
before the Redeemer to greet his appearing.

2. The chorus of angels, the chorus of mortals,
join voices in triumph before the high portal,
The portal of heaven from where condescending,
our God, to the state of a servant is bending.

Refrain: With dancing and singing, your treasure be bringing
before the Redeemer to greet his appearing. (repeat Refrain)

(Words and arrangement: Walter Ehret, 1918-2009; © 2000 Abingdon Press)

Sermon: "The Gift of the Magi" by Rev. John King

Hymn of Reflection As with Gladness Those of Old #159

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, Kathy Repko, "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]**

**Most wise and wondrous God, we pray that soon and very soon
your blessings will cover the face of the earth like a mist,
that divine offerings and the offerings of human hands
mingle imperceptibly as every need is satisfied.**

Communion

At Brecksville UCC, ALL are welcome to receive communion.
No exceptions. No Kidding.

Communion Music

God Is With Us

Debick

"God is with us, we have nothing to fear. In God's fullness we all have a share, love following on love. Prepare ye the way of the Lord."
(Based on Isaiah 41:10, John 1:16, Luke 3:4)

Prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood, that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.



Going with God's Love

* Hymn of Departure Arise, Your Light Is Come
Carrying the Light of Christ into the World (Acolyte)

#164

* 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 written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. 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 B-A), and E (above G). The second staff has a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. 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 (above B-A), E7 (above G), and A (above G). The piece ends with a double bar line.

*Benediction

Postlude

Star in the East

From The Southern Harmony, 1835



Readings

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7–14

For thus says the Eternal:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a parent to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Eternal, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “The One who scattered Israel will gather them,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of God,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Gospel Reading Matthew Mt 2:1–12 (NRSVUE)

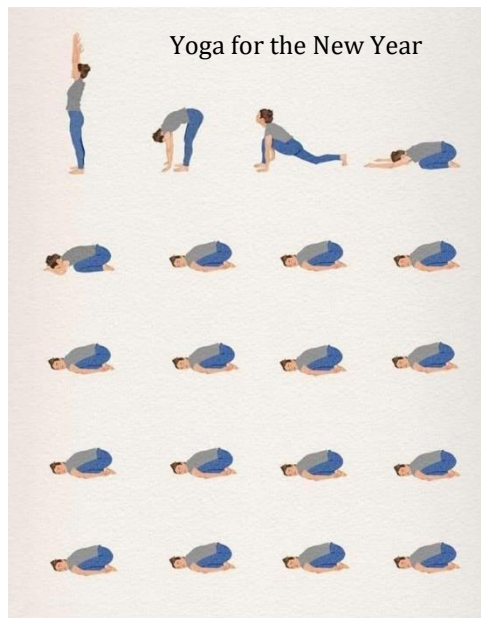
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

New Revised Standard Version: Updated Edition (Friendship Press, 2021), Mt 2:1–12.

Continuing Testament – By: Jan Richardson

Wise women also came.
The fire burned in their wombs long before
they saw
the flaming star in the sky.
They walked in shadows, trusting the path
would open under the light of the moon.
Wise women also came,
seeking no directions,

no permission from any king.
They came by their own authority,
their own desire,
their own longing.
They came in quiet, spreading no rumors,
sparking no fears to lead to innocents' slaughter,
to their sister Rachel's inconsolable lamentations.
Wise women also came,
and they brought useful gifts:
water for labor's washing,
fire for warm illumination,
a blanket for swaddling.
Wise women also came,
at least three of them,
holding Mary in the labor,
crying out with her in the birth pangs,
breathing ancient blessings into her ear.
Wise women also came,
and they went,
as wise women always do,
home a different way.



Announcements:

Congregational Meeting on January 26th: The BUCC Congregational Meeting will be on January 26, 2025 directly after our worship service. We hope that all members can attend this important meeting where we approve and vote on our Officers for the year 2025 as well as approve our Operating Budget. The slate of officers and the list of Ministry heads and members along with the Budget will be sent out via email by January 10th for your review, and there will be hard copies of these items available at that time for those who prefer paper copies for review.

TO DONATE ELECTRONICALLY- If you would like to make a donation to Brecksville United Church of Christ with your phone, please scan this QR code. If you need assistance, ask an usher - or a grandchild. Thank you!

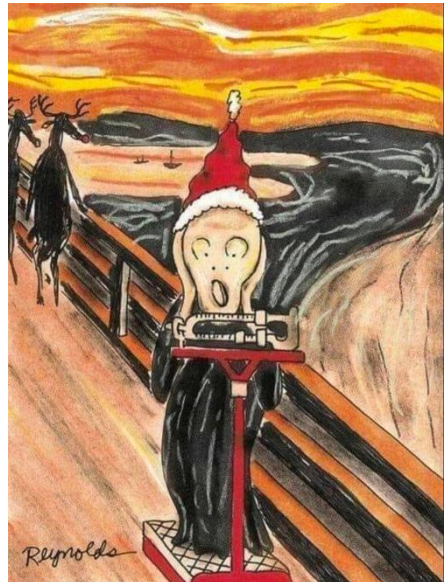


THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR includes the following:

TODAY	Membership
Mon. Jan 6	7:00 pm – Facilities Meeting
Tue. Jan 7	8:15 am – “Holy Grounds” at Panera 6:00 pm – AA “Love & Tolerance” (Pilgrim Hall) 7:00 pm – Spiritual Life
Wed. Jan 8	11:00 am – Mindfulness & Meditation (Parlor) 7:00 pm – Council
Thur. Jan 9	5:30 pm – Youth Choir 7:00 pm – Choir Practice
Fri. Jan 10	6:00 pm – Piano Recital (sanctuary)

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)

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

January 5th, 2025

Early Usher:	Evelyn Seager
Late Usher:	Mark Lehman
Greeter:	<i>Carol Miller</i>
Reader:	Volunteer Needed
Flowers:	Volunteers Needed
Counters:	Marjorie Culver Janet Renovetz
A/V:	David Pastor
Snacks:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Betsey Wilson
Clean Up:	Volunteers Needed

January 12th, 2025

Early Usher:	Jill Zedan
Late Usher:	Volunteer Needed
Greeter:	Volunteers Needed
Reader:	Robert Petrus
Flowers:	Katie MacKeigan King
Counters:	Marjorie Culver
A/V:	Volunteers Needed
Snack:	Volunteers Needed
Set Up/Serve:	Volunteers Needed
Clean Up:	Volunteer Needed

Jan Richardson, an artist and Methodist minister in Florida, also portrays the Magi as women of different races in "Wise Women Also Came," in "Sacred Journeys: A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer." The cover art for today's bulletin is also from that book.



Attendance last Sunday, December 29th, 2024 – Adults: 43; Kids: 3; Online: 31; Total: 77
Next week's scripture readings will be, **Isaiah 43: 1-7** and **Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22**