

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

**JANUARY 12, 2014 – THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST / FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY**

Meditation Music

Faithful and loving God, make your presence known in our lives. May we hear your still, small voice calling us out of our darkness into the service of others. May we know we are never truly left alone. You are our God and we your beloved children. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude Christ, when for us you were baptized 17th century English melody

“Straightway and steadfast until death
you then obeyed God's call
freely as Son of Man to serve
and give your life for all.”
F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984)

**Bearing the Light of Peace
Bearing the Light of Christ**

*** Call to Worship**

L: God, we sing our praise and thanks to you: for you are our friend

**P: You love us and look after us, and nothing happens
without your noticing.**

L: You keep on being kind to us, however little we deserve it,

**P: In Jesus you show us the right way to behave: and if
we trust you, you help us to live as your family.**

L: So everyone who knows you thanks you and loves you.
Together we thank you now.

P: God, help your children everywhere to grow up and to grow together.

L: As we follow the example of Jesus may we get wiser: and not only wiser, but also
more loving.

**P: Through our life in your family may we learn unselfishness, and be ready to
Make sacrifices for your sake.**

***Hymn of Praise**

Blessed Assurance

#473

***Prayer of invocation:** (Unison)

God of wondrous grace and graceful surprise, we offer thanks for your venture into the midst of humanity. Your decision to be present among us. You have dared to be among us; may we dare to be with you. Forgive us when we despair of faith's small beginnings. Remind us of Jesus' humble birth and miraculous growth. Forgive us when we regard Jesus as an intruder upon our will and ways. Enable us to welcome Jesus and to inhabit the world in a manner that proclaims your creation to be holy ground. Loving God, may you grow within us. Amen.

*** The Song of Praise**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988

Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est,
And on earth be peace to all peo - ple with whom God is pleased.

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff is in 6/8 time and features a melody with eighth and quarter notes. The second staff is in 6/8 time and features a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Old Testament

Isaiah 42:1-9

The New Testament

Matthew 3:13-17

Peter's Testimony

Acts 10:34-43

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

Song over the Waters

Haugen, arr. Debick

Sermon

Following Jesus to the Rivers Edge

Fran Apltauer

Hymn of Reflection You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

#173

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

Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

Offertory

The Brook

Mendelssohn

***The Doxology**

**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]**

All good gifts around us come from you, O God. You have given us life and new life in Christ. As you have given us gifts, so we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another, even as Jesus so taught and lived. Amen

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Call as Partners in Christ's Service

#495

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Acolyte

Circle of Fellowship

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 through once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' with guitar chords A, E, A, D, Bm, and E above it. The second staff has lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' with guitar chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, and A above it.

*Commission and Benediction

Postlude

Love Has Come

Maher

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Family of Todd Scarce, The Family of Vonda Ward, The Family of Nancy Foose, Doug Lightbody, Bill & Ann Toneff, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, Mary D'Agostino, Shirley Duncan, Donn Whyte, Cindy Burton, Effie Pappas, Betty Batsch, people who are unemployed and under employed.

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

Attendance Sunday, January 5, 2014 –Adults: 102 Kids: 12 Total: 114

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY WE WELCOME FRAN APLTAUER as our guest Preacher. Fran is a licensed lay minister of the Western Reserve Association and is the Minister of Visitation at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Berea, Ohio. She previously served as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President of the Board for Homeland Ministries, UCC. She has served as the Moderator of both the Ohio Conference and the Western Reserve Association. She currently serves on the Department of Church and Ministries.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are given by Jon Thompson in Loving Memory of his brother Ralph Kim Thompson who passed away 1/17/1989, and also his Mother Willadeen Thompson who passed away 1/14/2000.

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping with us today. Please sign our guest book and join us downstairs in Pilgrim Hall for refreshments and conversation.

CARD PARTY! SATURDAY JANUARY 18TH 2014's first Membership gathering.....at 6:30 PM. in Pilgrim Hall join us for a card party. Bring your favorite card games and a snack to share. Membership will provide the hot chocolate.

PILLAR DEADLINE for February **is this Wednesday 1/15/2014**. Please forward any articles to Jeannette at buccoh@sbcglobal.net

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.

RECORDING OF SUNDAY WORSHIP has resumed - now on audio CDs using newly installed sound equipment. If you missed a service or just want to hear again a sermon, an anthem or whatever, please check with the church office to borrow the CD.

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.

FOOD PANTRY items of need are always: canned fruit and vegetables, juice, cereal (hot or cold), Peanut Butter, Jam/Jelly, Toilet Paper, Soap, Toothpaste/Brushes, all Toiletry products. Please, leave your donations in the basket outside of the office door. Monetary contributions are always welcome. Please mark your envelope "Food Pantry."

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 READINGS

The Old Testament - Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The New Testament - Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Peter's Testimony 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 1/12/2014	10 am 11am	Worship Service Coffee Hour
Tuesday 1/14/2014	10-11:30am	CWRU Parlor
Wednesday 1/15/2014	6 am	Early Birds
Thursday 1/16/2014	1pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bible Study Joyful Noise Choir
Saturday 1/18/2014	6:30	Card Party - Pilgrim Hall
Sunday 1/19/2014	10 am 11 am 5:30 pm 6 pm	Worship Coffee Hour Youth Percussion Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 12, 2014

Lay Reader:	Matt Wolbert
Head Usher:	Caroline Chandler
Ushers:	Sue Maier, Joanne Cook, Dan Stewart, Fred Pesek
Acolyte:	Grace Hunt
Peace Cndl:	Drew Demko
Sound:	Max Roha, Doug Fawcett
Commons:	Ann Kelley
Narthex:	Betty Gifford
Flowers:	Kathy Lander
Nursery:	Kara Rees
Counters:	Bruce McCain, Sam Koch
Servers:	Carole & George Snider, Dottie Farwell
Clean Up:	Kathy & Dave Pastor
Snacks:	Sue Maier, Max Roha
Snow Herder:	David Pastor

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE
JANUARY 19, 2014

Lay Reader: Ruth Morris
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Jim & Peg Duffy,
Julie & Dave Bernard
Acolyte: Courtni Began
Peace Cndl: Garrett Demko
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Commons: Marge Culver
Narthex: Jane Cribbs
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Jan Renovetz, David Pastor
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Chad Sproul,
Dottie Farwell
Clean Up: Bob Chandler, Lynne Struck
Snacks: Mary Ann Hoppel, Jill Zedan
Snw Hrdr: Wes Novak

