



BRECKSVILLE

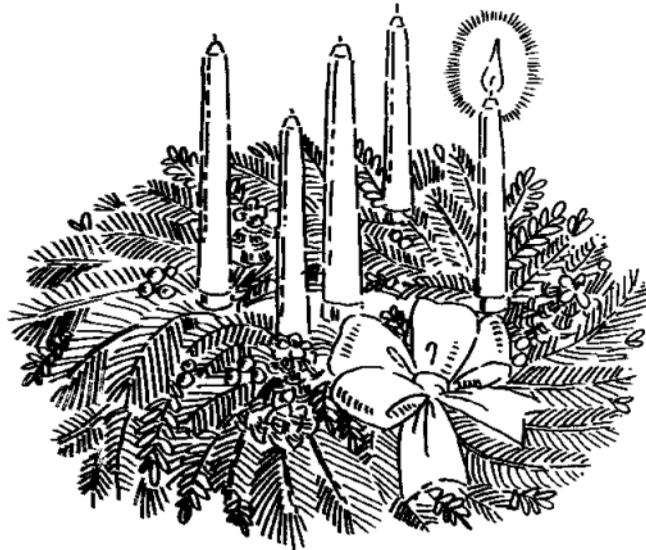
UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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

*Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power*

Divine Source of Hope, guide us as we travel the Holy Road to Bethlehem. When the journey wearies us, grant us your unfailing wisdom and encouragement. By your Spirit, strengthen and comfort us, so that we may faithfully meet the challenges along the way. This we Pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

First Sunday of Advent



Sunday November 29, 2015 • 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

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, 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

November 29, 2015 – First Sunday of Advent

Meditation Music

Holy Source of Compassion and Grace, we give thanks that you offer us restoration and renewal. May we boldly trust in your steadfast love and faithfulness, seek your forgiveness for our wrongs, and amend our misdirected and uncaring ways. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Wait for the Lord

Berthier

“Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!”
Taizé Community, France

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Advent is a season of expectation and celebration!

People: It is a time of anticipation and joy!

L: As we prepare for the coming of that New Day, and await the celebration of Jesus' birth,

P: We also claim Christ's Presence with us now, and gladly proclaim the joyous Good News:

L: Christ has come, Christ is here, Christ shall come again!

P: Watching and waiting, let us witness and serve - seeing the Christ in others, and revealing Christ's love in ourselves!

*** Hymn of Praise**

We Hail You God's Anointed

#104

*** Prayer of Invocation [Unison]**

Divine Source of Life and Love, in the person of Jesus Christ you come among us to share our whole lives: our strengths and weaknesses, our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Inspire us to welcome others as we have been welcomed, to comfort them as we have been comforted, to share with them the gracious hospitality that we ourselves have received - so that all people may feel at home in your Loving Presence. 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.

Lighting the Advent Wreath - The Candle of Hope

As the first Advent Candle is lit, we will sing the first verse of the hymn, One Candle Is Lit

Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as flowers, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the Hope of the Age.

L: Light of the World, help us to trust in Christ's message of hope;

P: Let it stir-up our own hopes and dreams!

L: Shine through the darkness and enlighten our lives,

P: That we may see - and be - the signs of your compassionate Presence on earth!

L: Warm our hearts and illuminate our souls,

P: That we may truly trust that your gracious love is dependable and sure!

Time with Young Worshipers

The Old Testament

Malachi 3:1-5

Pew Bible, page 889

The New Testament

Luke 3:2-3; 7-17

Pew Bible, page 60

Continuing Testament

by Matt Wolbert

in *BUCC Advent Devotional*

Sermon

We Seem to be Getting Mixed Messages!

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
[verses 1, 2, and 7]

#116

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

Agios O Theos (Trisagion) Russian Orthodox tradition

“Holy, holy, holy God,
holy and mighty, holy and eternal,
have mercy on us.”
Ancient Christian prayer

* 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's name. Amen!**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious Holy One, may these gifts help bring light to those who walk in darkness,
hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to
each of us a sense of participation in the most important work of all: to share your
love with the world. To this end, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves, through
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*Hymn of Departure

O How Shall I Receive You

#102

***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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle, Halle, Hallelujah'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' The score includes various chords such as A, E, A, D, Bm, E, Cf7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Canticle of the Turning

Irish traditional

“Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.”
Rory Cooney (b. 1952)

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Joy Garapic, Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Mary D’Agostino, 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 Sunday, November 22, 2015 – Adults: 83 Kids: 14 Total: 100

BUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all our guests who are worshiping 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 David & Kathy Pastor in Honor of Ingeborg Romanin.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED AT BUCC next Sunday December 6th at our morning worship service. If you are interested in joining, learning more about membership - or about our congregation or denomination - please talk with Pastor Dave.

A BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, December 13th, following worship. We will be presenting the preliminary 2016 budget and approving the 2016 slate of officers.

THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00 PM, BUCC will host the **Autana Trio**, which features violinist Ruben Rengel, cellist Anna Hurt, and pianist Yuri Noh. The award-winning ensemble, which formed during the musicians' studies at Cleveland Institute of Music, will perform works by Bach and Mendelssohn. A free-will offering will be received, and a light reception will follow the program. Note: The City of Brecksville's annual Christmas parade is also scheduled for 4:00 today. If you are coming to the concert or bringing food items for the reception, please plan to arrive a bit earlier than usual as some roads may be closed for the parade.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: This year's Christmas Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 at our regular morning worship. "Welcome to Our World," created by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling, features a number of memorable contemporary Christmas songs, along with a lively medley of traditional carols. The cantata will be presented by BUCC's adult and seasonal choirs, an instrumental ensemble and narrators. We hope you can join us for this holiday tradition.

MITTEN TREE: It may be a bit early but Old Man Winter isn't far away. Inner city children will need mittens, hats, scarves, and socks. We have a tree sitting in the Narthex of BUCC that needs some decorations. Also if you have some yarn suitable for mittens consider knitting mittens or contribute the yarn.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT Reminder: If you have a new address, please let the office know of the change, also if you have recently given up your land line and are using only a cell phone, please make us aware of your cell phone number.

LOOKING FOR AWESOME STOCKING STUFFERS? The Bicentennial Ministry has the perfect gift! We're offering LED magnetic, waterproof flashlights for just \$5 each (yep, just in time for Christmas!) Funds raised will help defray costs of our yearlong bicentennial celebration. Flashlights will be available for sale beginning Sunday, December 6th following worship in Fellowship Hall. Can't wait? See George Snider! Thank you for supporting the Bicentennial Ministry!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH There will not be a meeting of Women United in the month of December. However, we ALL have been invited to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church for an Advent Tea on DECEMBER 1st, this Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The Church is located at 9201 Brecksville Road (RT 21). From the Center of town going South on Brecksville Road it is located on the Left Side just beyond the Recreational Center.

CALLING FOR ALL RECIPES!! Please get your recipes in as soon as you can so that they can be typed. Also, it would be wonderful if you could include personal information about the recipe. For example, "this was my grandmother's favorite recipe for chocolate cake and she passed it on to me!" If it is more convenient you can email your recipe to me at: culinarybee@gmail.com. Thank you for your help in making this the best cookbook ever!

THAT PESKY PARKING PROBLEM! For the past few Sundays, our parking lot has been completely full. What a great problem to have! In an effort to be hospitable to our visitors and help those arriving late, we ask that those of you who can readily do so, park in the school lot next door. This is just another way in which we can signal our desire to be accessible and welcoming to all, particularly as the Winter weather sets-in!

BLANKET DRIVE - Maya MacKeigan-Moore, former BUCC member and daughter of Pastor John King, sends us the following: The Richfield UCC youth group would love your help with a blanket and pillow drive for a nursing home for people in need. Many patients at University Manor Health Care Center in Cleveland do not have a pillow, and the single blanket that is given to them is very thin and uncomfortable. (Monetary donations also accepted.!)

Maya came up with the idea for this project while with her father on a visit to that facility. If you would like to help, please leave a blanket, pillow, or an envelope stuffed with cash under our Mitten Tree - marked "Blanket Project". Thanks for your help!

The Readings

The Old Testament - Malachi 3:1-5

Behold, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; and the Holy One whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. The messenger of the Covenant in whom you delight, is indeed coming, says the Holy One of Hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present proper offerings to the Holy One.

Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Holy One as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who speak falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, who trample the widow and the orphan, against those who cast aside the refugee and do not fear me, says the Holy One of Hosts.

The New Testament - Luke 3:2-3; 7-17

The word of the Holy One came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into the region around the Jordan River, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.... John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He replied, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "What should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

The people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah. John answered them, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire!”

The Continuing Testament - by Matt Wolbert - in *BUCC Advent Devotional*

John is one of my favorite biblical characters. Dressed in his camel hair garment (weird even for his time), living in the wilderness, eating locusts and wild honey...what a sight he must have been to behold! The reason I like this wild, unruly, dirty, fire-and-brimstone preaching version of John (even though it isn't clear that it's historically accurate) is because it reminds me to look for the spirit inside each person I meet, rather than judging them by the outer shell they are wrapped in.

Truth be told, none of us are perfect at this art. It is much easier, when we see a stern-faced black teenager or a bedraggled homeless person who is speaking rambling thoughts, to pre-judge what that person is thinking and feeling; and to predetermine what our interaction with them will be like. The good news is we don't have to be perfect at accepting people the way they are... the important part is that we try our best to be open to the possibilities. That teenager may be waiting for someone to listen to and value her opinion. That homeless person may need shoes, or a meal, or someone to simply say, "I care about what happens to you". If we truly try to see the inner beauty that God has given to each individual, we may provide an enriching experience to them...and to ourselves.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Nov. 29	10:00 am	Worship Service /Advent Starts
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	4:00 pm*	Free Concert – Autana Trio

** Note: the Brecksville Christmas Parade is at exactly this same time. Please plan on arriving early in order to access our parking lot.*

Wed, Dec. 2	6:00 am	Early Birds
	7:00 pm	Spiritual Life

Thurs, Dec. 3	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Pageant Rehearsal
	7:00 pm	Seasonal Choir
	8:00 pm	Choir

Sunday, Nov. 29	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
	11:30 am	Percussion Practice For Cantata - *Hunger Meal – Bethany*

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Lay Reader: Ed Lusk
Head Usher: Bob Chandler
Ushers: Heidi Spangler, Drew Wilson
Sue Stenzel, Betsey Wilson
Acolyte: Ryan Stewart
Peace Candle: Evan Merritt
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: George Snider
Narthex Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Kate Klonowski
Counters: Jim Duffy, Kathy Pastor
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Carole Snider
Clean-Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Diane Gressley, Tina Ortiz

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

DECEMBER 6, 2015

Lay Reader: Cliff Cribbs
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Ed Lusk, Wes Novak
Chad & Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Dot Bailey
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: Nancy Stella, Jon Thompson
Servers: Dottie Farwell, Joanne Cook
Clean Up: Peg & Jim Duffy
Snacks: Vicki Szabo, Marla Corrado
Snow Herder: Jim Farwell

**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 6

I Enclose \$10.00 _____ 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 _____