



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*

Prepare us,
O God, to
welcome the
events and
people that
mark turning
points in our
lives. Stir our
imaginations
to honor the
dreams that
send us in
new dir-
ections.
Grant us
courage to
follow the
signs that
lead to
another
road. Amen.



Sunday January 3, 2016 • 10:00 AM

Feast of the Epiphany

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

JANUARY 3, 2016—FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Meditation Music

Good and Gracious God, thank you for calling us to see your face in the faces of all your people.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

15th century

"What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?

'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring."

Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

* Call to Worship

Leader: Today, we remember those travelers from the East who brought gifts to the Christ Child.

People: We give thanks for those strangers who enrich our lives.

L: Human Jesus,

P: We bring our humble offerings.

L: Divine Jesus,

P: We try to be our best for you.

L: Jesus of those times and these times,

P: Show yourself to us in your word, in communion, in one another!

L: Make our gifts worthy

All: And grateful for those we receive!

* Hymn of Praise

As with Gladness

#159

* Prayer of Confession [Unison]

Good and Gracious God, You have blessed us with every good thing. Sometimes we don't take your gifts seriously and fail to use them well. You ask us to exercise the gifts and sometimes we refuse you. You ask us to share them with one another and sometimes we ignore you. Once again we ask your forgiveness for our lack of care and hard hearts. Thank you for showing us again how to use our gifts for the good of your people. Trusting in your endless generosity, we thank you for inviting us to communion with you and one another. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

L: This truth remains and will never change: God has loved us, loves us now, and will love us always. This is the Good News that brings us new life!

All: Thanks be to God!

*** Passing the Peace**

L: As Jesus calls us to forgiveness and renewed relationship, let us offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

P: And also with you!

*** 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.

Old Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

New Testament

Matthew 2:1-12

Continuing Testament

“Fourth and Walnut”

by Thomas Merton

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

The Kings
[Jon Thompson, bass]

Cornelius

Sermon

Epiphany

Ann P. Klonowski, RCWP

Hymn of Reflection

Brightest and Best

#157

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

Raise a Song of Gladness

Berthier

"Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!"
Taize (regular accent mark over "e") Community, 1978

*** 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 [unison]**

**Good and gracious God, may we accept your gifts to us as graciously as you
accept ours. Your great desire is for us to treat one another as we would want to be
treated ourselves. Help us remember that the best we can offer you is to see one
another as you see us and to treat all your people with love and respect. Then your
divine self will be visible in this world and your reign of love will fill the world.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Eat This Bread

#788

The Thanksgiving

L: God is with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to our God.

L: Let us give thanks to our loving God.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

L: All loving and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus the Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy God, Spirit of Love and Peace. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Nocturne Op. 27, No. 1

Chopin

Prayer of Thanksgiving [Unison]

Dear Jesus, the star led the Magi to you. May that star still guide us as we find you in this Bread and Cup, as we find you in your Word, and as we find you in the people you put in our lives. May our gift to you be a deep realization of your gifts to us, given to us to be put at the service of the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

Hymn of Departure

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

***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*

A musical score for the hymn "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja". It consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The top staff is the vocal line, and the bottom staff is the guitar accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are: "Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja." The guitar accompaniment includes chords such as A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Kings of Orient

Hopkins

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ann Toneff, Jill Black, Tina Ortiz, Dassie Matsuoka, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Kathleen Stewart, 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, December 27, 2015 – Adults: **No Count Entered** Kids: Total:

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.

FOR OUR COMMUNION SERVICE, grape juice is used instead of wine for the purpose of showing solidarity with those among us who may be in recovery from addiction.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE BUCC LIBRARY LATELY? IF NOT, COME SEE ALL THE NEW BOOKS!

Over the course of the last few months, we have been blessed to receive a number of donated books for our library - so many in fact, that we can't keep up with cataloging them all! To ensure that they are made available to folks as soon as possible, we have started putting bright orange 'New' stickers on the books and putting them on the shelves. You can borrow these books whenever you like on the honor system - no need to sign them out. Once they are cataloged, we will add them to the sign out lists.

(Continued next page)

Our library has more than just biblical and religious Christian texts -- there's now a whole shelf with quotes and illustrative stories for public speakers.

There are also a number of books on other religions and spirituality. If you are a Sunday School teacher, there's an entire section of reference materials for you.

So thank you to all the folks who continue to help our library grow by donating books, and come take a look - you may find an interesting read!

"JUST A REMINDER - IS YOUR CHECK DATED 2016?"

MUSIC MINISTRY: Rehearsals resume this week for most of BUCC's music ensembles. Here's the schedule:

Joyful Noise meets Thurs. Jan. 7 from 5:30-6:15. Youth grades K-5 are welcome to participate. Singing, Bible stories, activities.

Adult Choir meets Thurs. Jan. 7 from 7:30-9. Preparation for Sunday anthems; choir leads hymns during services. A stimulating blend of music, spirituality and fellowship.

Youth Percussion will meet next Sunday Dec. 10 at 5:30 before Youth Ministry at 6. Group provides rhythmic accompaniment as needed for Sunday service music. 6th grade up welcome. This group generally meets *every other* Sunday, depending on other church activities.

Recorder/Dulcimer Ensemble will be on break during January.

Private piano lessons resume this week on Wed. and Thurs. Schedule will remain same as autumn. If interested in starting lessons, contact Dave D.

Instrumentalists are encouraged to contact Dave if interested in playing during service. It would be difficult to find a more affirming congregation with which to share your musical gifts than BUCC! Feel free to contact Dave with any questions or concerns.

200 YEARS OF SERVING. We are still accepting recipes for the bicentennial cookbook to be published in time for Mother's Day. The cut-off date for submission of your recipes will be Sunday, January 24, 2016 but the earlier we receive them helps to minimize that panicky last minute rush. You can submit them handwritten or typed but please make sure your name is with your recipe. Just put them in the recipe box in the commons or email them to culinarybee@gmail.com. Any comments about the recipes you write (and we encourage and welcome them) will be included in the cookbook. Thank you.

The Readings

The Old Testament – Is 60:1-6 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

Arise, shine, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of our God is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth,
and darkness the peoples.

Above you Our God now rises
and God's glory now appears on you.
The nations come to your light,
and the leaders to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
all are assembling and coming toward you:
your daughters and your sons journey from afar.
At this sight, you will grow radiant,
your heart will thrill and rejoice;
the riches of the sea will flow to you,
and the wealth of nations will come to you.
Camels in throngs will cover you,
the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah.
Everyone in Sheba will come
bringing gold and incense,
and singing the praise of our God.

The New Testament – Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, 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 wise men 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 at its rising, 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.

The Continuing Testament— Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

"In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world. . . .

This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud. . . . I have the immense joy of being [human], a member of a race in which God [Godself] became incarnate. As if the sorrows and stupidities of the human condition could overwhelm me, now that I realize what we all are. And if only everybody could realize this! But it cannot be explained. There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.

Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed. . . . But this cannot be seen, only believed and 'understood' by a peculiar gift."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, Jan. 3	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, Jan. 4	7:00 pm	Spiritual Life
Tuesday, Jan. 5	7:00 pm	Membership
Wednesday, Jan. 6	6:00 am	Early Birds
Thursday, Jan. 7	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday, Jan. 9	9:00 am	Facilities
Sunday, Jan. 10	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Potluck
	5:30 pm	Youth Percussion
	6:00 pm	Youth Ministry

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 3, 2016

Lay Reader: Matt Wolbert
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Joanne Cook, Fred Pesek
Acolyte: Michalina Fawcett
Peace Candle: Garrett Demko
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Chad Sproul
Narthex Grtr: Lenore Harris
Flowers: Jan Renovetz
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Jon Thompson, Nancy Stella
Servers: Caroline Chandler, Marge Culver
Clean Up: Jan Renovetz, Pat Bailey
Snacks: Beth Rehling, Kate Klonowski
Snow Herder: Chad Sproul

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JANUARY 10, 2016

Lay Reader: Tia Began
Head Usher: Bridget Sproul
Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Kathy Pastor, Beth Rehling
Acolyte: Naomi Klonowski
Peace Candle: Olivia Klonowski
Sound: Tim Wallis
Comns Grtr: Ann Kelley
Narthex Grtr: Linda Kriynovich
Flowers: *See Jan Renovetz*
Nursery: Gina Cook
Counters: David Pastor, Jim Duffy
Servers: Joanne Cook, Sue Stenzel
Clean-Up: Bridget & Chad Sproul
Snacks: Heidi Spangler, Susan Snyder
Snow Herder: Jim Farwell