

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

MAY 25, 2014 – SIXTH SUDAY OF EASTER

Meditation Music

Gracious Holy One we acknowledge that too often we prefer to live with comforting half-truths, rather than face the perfect truth of your Light and Love. Help us to see and know your Spirit of Wisdom and Grace, and to have the courage to live and love as you intend. Amen.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

O Day of Peace

Parry

“O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.”

Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Bearing the Light of Peace Bearing the Light of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

L: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

P: And God delighted in all that was made.

L: God created humankind from the earth, and blew into them the Breath of Life.

P: And God directed them to cultivate the earth and to care for it.

L: The people sometimes resisted, yet God's persistent love for creation would not fail.

P: In Jesus Christ, God shows us how to care for the world and for one another.

L: Today, we gather in the name of Christ, to be renewed in God's love and in the care of creation.

P: The Living Breath of God blows in us and through us once again today,

L: Clearing the cobwebs of our minds, and opening our hearts to respect and cherish all of God's gifts and all of God's people.

All: Let us rejoice in the Holy One, who blesses us in so many ways!

*** Hymn of Praise**

Praise to the Living God

#8

*** Prayer of Invocation** [Unison]

Gracious God, Renewer of Life, we thank you that in the Resurrected Christ, you raise us up to forgiveness, hope and new life. Help us to walk in your ways, by extending to others the gracious welcome and life-changing Good News that we have received. Help us to be strong in faith, gentle in compassion, and loving in all our words and deeds. Amen.

***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 Old Testament

Psalm 8

Pew Bible, page 492

The New Testament

Acts 17:22-31

Pew Bible, page 137

The Continuing Testament from *American Idols*

by Melissa Bane Sevier

Time with Young Worshipers

Musical Offering

From A Distance

Gold, arr. Chinn

Sermon

That Other "Idol" Show

Pastor Dave Shackle

Hymn of Reflection

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

#556

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

Jesus Christ Is Our Freedom

Franc

***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]

Accept these offerings, O God, giver of every good and perfect gift. Grant that they may represent our love and ourselves now offered more fully to you. Use all these gifts and us, we pray, that your perfect reign may come and your gracious will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven. We pray in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen

The Blessing

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

#80

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 systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first system has a 4/4 time signature. The first line of music has a chord of A above it. The second line has chords of E, A, and D above it. The third line has chords of Bm and E above it. The lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." are written below the notes. The second system has a 4/4 time signature. The first line has a chord of A above it. The second line has chords of C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4, E7, and A above it. The lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." are written below the notes.

*Benediction

Postlude

Unity March

Skelly

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Lee Sanderson, Jill Black (Jim Duffy's Aunt), Jim & Betty Kaul, Ruth Thorpe, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, Tina Ortiz, Frank Ditzig, 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, May 18, 2014 – Adults: 101 Kids: 14 Total: 115

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 refreshments and conversation.

LAST SUNDAY, A LOT OF PEOPLE GOT FED! BUCC members, in partnership with Advent Episcopal Church, served a delicious hot supper to 85 people at Pearl Road United Methodist Church - with additional take-home meals for all, and extras taken to Saint Herman's House of Hospitality....Meanwhile, across the Square at Brecksville Methodist Church, other BUCC members joined with people from 7 other area churches to pack nearly 21,000 meals for individuals in need around the world! A BIG THANKS to all of you who helped with the "Stop Hunger Now" event, and with preparing and serving the our meal in Cleveland

WHAT A GREAT PROBLEM TO HAVE! Even with a good number of us regularly parking at Central School, we continue to have a bit of a parking "problem". In an effort to remain hospitable to our visitors and help those arriving late, we ask that others 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.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED AT BUCC on Sunday June 22nd 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.

OUR ADOPTED--HIGHWAY NEEDS A NEW PARENT! After approximately 15 years of taking care of our BUCC Adopt-A-Highway program, Jane Cribbs is ready to let that baby leave the nest. We are looking for a new parent or guardian to keep a watchful eye on this program. This involves coordinating information with the Ohio Department of Transportation, scheduling events with Pastor Dave, and encouraging our members and friends to sign-up and participate. Mindy Harris and Jesse Wade will continue their good work with the events. Please talk to Jane or Pastor Dave if you are willing to help with this.

LET'S SEE THOSE BEAUTIFUL FACES! If you haven't yet done so, please sign a Photograph & Video Release Form and return it to the Church Office. We continue to gather some marvelous pictures of BUCC events that would make our great website even greater. However, we want to respect those who may not want their picture included. Therefore, we will only post images of those who have a signed release form in our Records. Thank You!

2014 GAY GAMES HOSTING/HOUSING The 2014 Gay Games presented by The Cleveland Foundation are coming to Cleveland+Akron from August 9-16. The Games will welcome more than 10,000 participants and nearly 20,000 guests to the cities, with individuals participating in more than 35 sport and culture events over the course of the week. We are looking for people to open their home for that week, allowing one or more

participants to stay with them during their visit. You don't need to feed the participants or drive them to their events, though you are welcome to do so. This is a fun way to be more involved in the in the Games and meet people that are visiting from around the world! If you are interested in signing up as a host or learning more, please contact Chelsea Kertes at ckertes@gg9cle.com or 1.216.479.6314.

SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM: Over the next couple Sundays, Dave D. will be recruiting volunteer singers and instrumentalists to share their musical gifts with our congregation at Sunday worship from mid-June through Labor Day. Volunteers are welcome to choose their own music, or Dave can help you find a piece you like. Rehearsal(s) beforehand as necessary so everyone feels comfortably prepared. For those who might be interested but have never presented music before at one of our Sunday services, please know that you couldn't ask for more supportive, affirming listeners! Feel free to contact Dave with any questions or concerns.

THE PLOT THICKENS! *Attention All Gardeners:* There has been conversation about using a little plot of our land in back to grow some vegetables, flowers, and herbs. If you are interested in making this happen, please contact Marla Corrado at marlacorrado@hotmail.com or 440-382-5493. It would be great to put that space to good use, and to come up with a plan for using some of the goods grown to spread the love!

THE BUCC LIBRARY needs a new computer laser printer. If you have a computer printer that you are not using and could donate, please contact Max Roha at 440-667-3982 (rohasark@sbcglobal.net) or Susan Snyder at 440-582-8884 (ssnyder44147@gmail.com). Thank you.

MONTHLY CALENDAR ONLINE the Church Calendar is also printed on our website: www.brecksvilleucc.org. It is filled with up to date events, and times, even last minute changes. Please check it out.

THURSDAY LUNCH ANYONE? For those over sixty, you're invited to attend Thursday Lunch at Brecksville Human Services Center Gathering Room. Enjoy a delicious homemade meal; entrée, salad, beverages, and of course dessert! Lunch is served as 12 noon and reservations are required. The cost is \$7 for residents and \$9 for guests of residents. Call: 440-526-2499 to make your reservation.

PLEASE BE SURE to enter your meeting and event schedules in the office calendar. This is used to list your times in both the weekly bulletin and in the monthly Pillar.

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.

MAY FOOD PANTRY Items are Infant Formula, Baby Food, and Diapers.

NAME TAGS are available for you to wear in the church and at coffee hour. These are helpful to visitors and members alike, to help us to get to know our people. If you are missing a name tag, please let the Office know.

THE READINGS

The Old Testament - Psalm 8

O Holy One, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have establish a stronghold to thwart those who oppose your ways, to silence those who seek vengeance and destruction. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have made; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mere mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than Yourself, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have entrusted to them the works of your hands; you have put all things under their care, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Holy One, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The New Testament - Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The Holy One who made the world and everything in it, the One who is Sovereign of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is served by human hands, as though God needed anything, since God gives to all mortals life and breath and all things that exist."

"From one ancestor, the Creator made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps reach and find God - Who indeed is not far from

each one of us. For as even some of your own poets have said, 'In God we live and move and have our being' and 'For we too are God's offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone - an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because a day has been set in which God will judge the world in righteousness."

The Continuing Testament - from *American Idols* - by Melissa Bane Sevier [edited]

Searchers. Isn't that what we all are? Speaking to the citizens of Athens, Paul said that people search for God, when truly God is quite close. There are those who search for God, those who search for meaning, those who search for joy. Some seek health and happiness, some look for family and belonging. There are people who long for fame, and people who want nothing more than quiet anonymity; people who want to be rich, and people who want to simplify their lives by getting rid of possessions.

Most of us, at some time or other, have a feeling that something is missing; so we go searching. We are not unlike the ancient Athenians. They erected structures to every god in their pluralistic society, even one "to an unknown god" just to cover all the bases. Searching isn't a bad thing, though some quests are more noble than others. Shallow goals typically produce shallow results. Fame and possessions usually don't yield deep satisfaction. Those pursuits can turn into false idols, when they replace the deeper searches for meaning.

What if we took Paul's advice to look for the God who is not far away, but actually close? Our inward looking could lead us to the places where God has already been at work in our souls, stirring in us the desire for meaning. Our outward searching could lead us to the places where God has already been at work in the world. Our searching could lead us to recognize that meaning, happiness, peace, and belonging, aren't that far away. The object of our true search is right here, with us and within us: "For in God we live and move and have our being."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 5/25/2014

10 am Worship/Baptism
11 am Coffee Hour
11:30 am Adopt-A-Highway

Monday 5/26/2014

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Wednesday 5/28/2014

6 am Early Birds
5 pm Recorder/Dulcimer

Thursday 5/29/2014

1pm Bible Study
5:30 pm Joyful Noise
7:30 pm Choir

Sunday 6/1/2014

10 am Worship Service
11 am Coffee Hour
2 pm Akron Rubber Ducks Baseball Game

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 25, 2014

Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Dan Stewart, Spencer Whyte
Jill Zedan Joanne Cook
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Cndl: Indira Bigelow
Sound: Dave Bernard
Commons: Stu Bailey
Narthex: George Snider
Flowers: Kathy Pastor
Nursery: Kathy Pastor
Counters: Bruce McCain, Betty Kaul
Servers: Darlene Kelly, Carole Snider
Clean Up: Jill Zedan, Lynne Struck
Snacks: Jane Cribbs, Pat Bailey

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

JUNE 1, 2014

Lay Reader: Stewart Bailey
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Julie & Dave Bernard
Kathy & David Pastor
Acolyte: Carrie Coyer-Westerberg
Peace Cndl: Amy Coyer-Westerberg
Sound: Mike Westerberg
Commons Grtr: Jane Cribbs
Narthex Grtr: Chad Sproul
Flowers: Dorie Gabor
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Nancy Stella, Dassie Matsuoka
Server: Caroline Chandler
Clean Up: Bob Chandler