



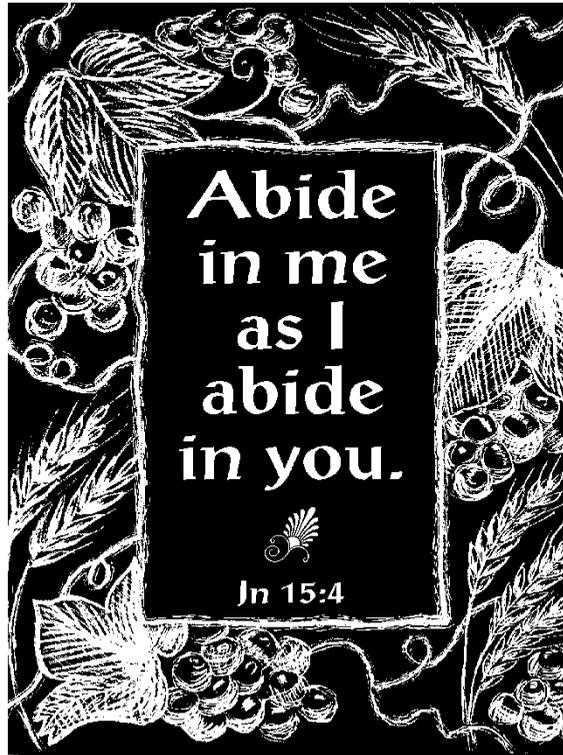
BRECKSVILLE

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*

God, you are the vine grower. We are the branches. Help us abide in Jesus the Christ, your true vine, so that we may bear much fruit. Grant that we may faithfully proclaim the good news until all are welcomed into the new life you so generously give. Amen.



Sunday May 3, 2015 • 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

MAY 3, 2015 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Meditation Music

Ever-living God, you have revealed to the nations your saving power and filled all ages with the words of a new song. Hear the echo of this hymn. Give us voice to sing your praise throughout this season of joy. We ask this through Jesus, our brother.

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able.*

Prelude

Lord, Make Me Know Your Ways

Donnelly

Bearing the Light of Peace

Bearing the Life of Christ

*** Call to Worship**

Leader: Wherever we may be, the Divine Presence surrounds us. When we are alone
Or when we are together.

People: The Holy One is with us.

L: When we walk or when we fall,

P: The Holy One Raises us up.

L: When we feel trapped or when we soar free,

P: Divine Love sustain us.

L: When we are in shadow or in the light,

P: Divine Grace shine upon us.

L: In this time and place, and wherever we go,

All: The Holy One is truly with us! Let us Rejoice and give Thanks!

***Hymn of Praise**

From All That Dwell below the Skies

#27

*** Prayer of Confession [Unison]**

Eternal Holy One, we look to your saving power and grace. Enter those parts of ourselves that disturb us and heal them. Use our broken places as the places where you bring us together in community. Transform our own weakness into compassion for the weakness of others. Give us that graceful combination of humility and self-esteem, that we may see ourselves and others as you see us - your restored and loved people. Amen.

*** The Assurance of Pardon**

L: One fact remains and does not 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 God's forgiven and renewed people, let us now greet one another with the peace of Christ. The Peace of Christ be with you!

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

New Testament Reading:

1 John 3:18-24

New Testament:

John 15: 1-8

The Continuing Testament:

from I Believe in Jesus Christ, by Joan Chittister

Time with Young Worshipers

Anthem

I Am

Melley

Sermon

"The Vine and the Branches"

Mary Collingwood, ARCWP

Hymn of Reflection

You Are Called to Tell the Story

#357

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

Blest Are They Who Trust

Trad. Russian Orthodox
chant, adapt. Hopson

“Like a fruitful vine they flourish,
branches of a faithful tree,
so shall children’s children gather
at your table, you to see.”
Michael Morgan, 1999

*Offertory Hymn

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of love we share our gifts. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

**Accept these offerings, Gracious Holy One, Giver of every good and perfect gift.
Grant that they may represent our love - and our lives - offered more fully to you.
Use all these gifts and each one of us to help proclaim and advance your message
of forgiveness and love, welcome and peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus
Christ, the Risen One who brings new life to us all. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

#342

The Thanksgiving

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: Our hearts rejoice in God’s presence!

L: Let us give thanks for God’s Holy Love!

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

L: It is truly good and right to give thanks to you, O God of Grace and Glory, Spirit of Life and Love. Because you have raised Christ up to newness of life, we now raise our voices with your people of every time and place, praising your Holy Name and saying,

All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High!

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Invitation

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Communion Music Le Jardin Suspendu (The Hanging Garden) Alain

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

We give you praise and thanks, O God, that you have granted us the presence of the Risen Christ at this table of grace. Grant that now, renewed and refreshed in spirit, we may carry that grace, love, and peace of Christ with us into all the world. Amen.

Going with God's Love

***Hymn of Departure** Sent Forth by God's Blessing #76

***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 two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah". The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." are written below the notes. Above the notes are the chords: A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics "Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja." are written below the notes. Above the notes are the chords: A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

***Benediction**

You are the light for the world, you are salt for the earth. It is God's own Spirit alive within you Who animates you, consecrates you, and blesses you in the name of God: Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.

Postlude

Jesus Mine, I'll Not Leave

Krebs

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLOWING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Pastor Dave Shackle, Ann Toneff, Dan Renovetz, Jan & G. Wardlaw, Bill Harris, Doris Schmid, Kirk & Lee Sanderson, Doug Lightbody, Kathleen Stewart, 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, April 26, 2015 – Adults: 75 Kids: 9 Total: 84

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 Maureen Stanley in Memory of her Mother, Edna Stanley.

PASTOR DAVE will be off for one more week. He is receiving treatment for a medical condition connected with his hearing loss. He looks forward to being back on 5/5, and leading worship that following Sunday. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Ann Klonowski [216-544-4717].

THIS PAST WEEK a former Member, Janette Shirkey Ellenberger, passed away from complications of Alzheimer's. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

BICENTENNIAL QUILT WORKSHOP, Sunday, May 3rd after worship in Fellowship Hall. Fabric crayons and magic markers will be available for your use. Members of the committee will be there to help you design your quilt squares.

PLEASE JOIN US for the our new Bicentennial Ad-Hoc Ministry. We will be brainstorming ideas to make our yearlong celebration worthy of our 200 year history., please join us on **Tuesday, May 19th at 7 pm**, as we continue fleshing out what our big birthday celebration will look like. ***EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!***

NOTE: The concert this afternoon has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with the Ensemble.

MOTHER'S DAY COLLECTION on Sunday, May 10th, 2015, we will be collecting donations for Womankind, an organization who provides comprehensive prenatal care to pregnant women in need. Your family can pick up a baby bottle in the narthex to take home and collect loose change (or a check would be lovely!) Your financial donations go a long way!

Other "wish list" items include:

Helpful donation items in high demand include: Office Max/Giant Eagle/Sam's Club gift cards; Diapers-all sizes; Baby Wipes; Similac Advance with Iron (this type of formula only please); "Forever" postage stamps; baby clothes; maternity clothes and furniture (no toys, please!). Womankind provides all of their services at no cost. Thank you so much for your generosity! If you have any questions, concerns or need to arrange a large pickup, please contact Kate Klonowski at 216-534-3498 or keightykay@gmail.com.

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

New Testament Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk-- it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we will know we belong to the truth; this is how we will be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand-- because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight. The

commandments are: that we believe in the name of our God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

New Testament: John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to the disciples:

I am the true vine
and my Abba God is the vine grower
who cuts off every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
but prunes the fruitful ones
to increase their yield.

You have been pruned already,
thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.

Live on in me,
as I do in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself
apart from the vine,
neither can you bear fruit
apart from me.

I am the vine;
you are the branches.

Those who live in me and I in them
will bear abundant fruit,
for apart from me you can do nothing.

Those who do not live in me
are like withered, rejected branches,
to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned.

If you live on in me,
and my words live on in you,
ask whatever you want
and it will be done for you.

My Abba God will be glorified
if you bear much fruit
and thus prove to be my disciples.

The Continuing Testament: from I Believe in Jesus Christ, by Joan Chittister

I believe in the Jesus who raised a young woman from the dead in a culture that taught "When a boy child comes, peace comes. When a girl child comes, nothing comes." Why

bother to raise a girl from the dead if her life has no value to begin with? The answer is too obvious to write: Jesus simply does not share the opinion, does not cotton to that philosophy, rejects that theology for the fraud it is. Jesus, born of God, knows that to be made "in the image of God" is not to be shaped male but to be made loving, feeling, thinking. Clearly, to Jesus, this young woman was full of a life force never fully unleashed and meant to come to wholeness yet. But the Jesus who shocked his own culture with his reckless signal that women were human beings, too, was not believed in cultures to come either which, though they came eventually to admit the humanity of women, did not accept their equality. Why bother to educate a girl, society went on saying over and over again. They won't do anything with it. Why bother to ask women what they think about life, about governance, about the world, about even themselves? They don't have sense enough to know. Why bother to beg the Church one more time for inclusive language in theological documents, for two pronouns for the human race, for acknowledgement of the feminine in a genderless God made male by male writers? Why bother-- after years and years of patient waiting and endless appeals-- to go on knocking on deaf church doors one more time, I tell myself, tired of waiting, wary of closed-minded authoritarianism, and ready to give up and go away to better lands. Why go on for the sake of women until women, too, really become more than partial human beings in a society that is trying and a Church that is not, I ask myself? The answer is clear: We go on because Jesus did. The answer is a matter of faith. The answer is a statement of belief. I go on because I believe in the Jesus, the Christ, who raised a woman from the dead.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 3	10:00 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour
Monday, May 4	7 pm	Spiritual Life
	7:30 pm	Facilities
Wednesday, May 6	6:00 am	Early Birds
	4:30 pm	Recorder/Dulcimer
Thursday, May 7	1:00 pm	Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Joyful Noise
	7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday, May 10	10:00 am	Worship Service *WOMANKIND OFFERING*
	11:00 am	Coffee Hour

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 3, 2015

Lay Reader: Kate Klonowski
Head Usher: Evie Novak
Ushers: Jane & Cliff Cribbs
Sam Koch, Bridget Sproul
Acolyte: Briana Brown
Peace Cndl: Indira Bigelow
Sound: Kevin Smith
Comns Grtr: Sue Stenzel
Narthex Grtr: Dorie Gabor
Flowers: Betty Gifford
Nursery: Kara Reese
Counters: Jim Kaul, Nancy Stella
Servers: Dorie Gabor, Carole Snider
Clean Up: David & Kathy Pastor
Snacks: Kathleen Stewart, Diane Gressley

PARTICIPANTS IN NEXT SUNDAY SERVICE

MAY 10, 2015

Lay Reader: Jim Duffy
Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Tim Wallis, Kim Dessofy
George & Carole Snider
Acolyte: Ben Davis
Peace Cndl: Evan Merritt
Sound: Max Roha
Comns Grtr: Kathy Pastor
Narthex Grtr: David Pastor
Flowers: Marla Corrado
Nursery: Marla Corrado
Counters: Betty Kaul, Sue Stenzel
Servers: Dottie & Jim Farwell
Clean-Up: Chad & Bridget Sproul
Snacks: Anne Melfo, Kate Klonowski